

OCT 2001

Dolaucothi W/12/2469



Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/30

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales



A R C H A E O L O G Y

CAMBRIA

A R C H A E O L O G Y

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/30
PROJECT RECORD NO. 41807

30 October 2001

Dolaucothi W/12/2469
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

Eleanor Breen

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 Cyffwrddinol 01558 823121
Adran Rhcoli 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	5
Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments	7
Site and Area Designations Glossary	32
References	33
Appendix:	
Historic Landscape Character Areas:	
241Dolaucothi-Pumpsaint and 243 Dolaucothi Gold Mines	34
Quality Assurance Report	37
Farm Maps	

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

Dolaucothi Farmhouse is located 0.9 kilometres north east of Pumpsaint, Carmarthenshire. The farm is situated alongside the Afon Cothi with some land on the south east facing slope of Allt Dolaucothi, all within an altitude range of 130 – 200 metres and comprising approximately 58 hectares. The entire farm is situated within the Historic Landscape of Wales (Dyfed) 8 Dolaucothi in the Cadw/ICOMOS *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.

Dolaucothi is well known for the extensive Roman remains, particularly the Roman goldmine. The farm itself has part of the Dolaucothi Fort within its boundary as well as a more recently discovered *vicus* or Roman village/town.

Dolaucothi Mansion was the home of the Johnes family from the early 16th century and the estate remained in that family until 1941 when it was presented to the National Trust. The National Trust became sole owner of the property in 1956 on the death of Mr Lloyd-Johnes. The mansion was largely rebuilt in the 18th century and further work was undertaken in 1871. The National Trust demolished most of the mansion in 1955. Only part of one wing remains, dating from 1871, and this is now the farm house. This farm house and the stable range are listed buildings. The once substantial mansion had gardens and a park to equal its grandeur. A walled garden was situated to the south of the mansion enclosed by the garden area and all contained within the park. The parkland and gardens are in the Cadw/ICOMOS *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*.

There are various types of field boundaries on the farm. The track to the south of the farmyard running past the walled garden is bounded by a stone wall which is in good condition. To the north of the farmyard the hedges appear to enclose former open parkland. These are well maintained and laid. This management minimises the detracting from the parkland appearance. The fields to the south of the farmyard are bounded mainly by hedges some of which have post and wire fencing and are largely grown out.

Dolaucothi Farmstead is an interesting example of the continuous change to be found on working farms. Buildings have been added to, new building techniques and new materials used and spaces and buildings have been reused over the lifetime of this farm. This variation is an important aspect of the history of this farm and farming in the locality.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A large quantity of worked stone is currently stored adjacent to the poultry house and run. The origin of this stone is unknown but it is presumed to have come from the house and gardens. This stone should be studied by a specialist and possible further action taken on the basis of a report on this assemblage.

Any maintenance to the buildings and structures on this farm should be undertaken using appropriate materials and techniques.

The range of archaeological sites and features on this farm make it ideal for public access. Information could be provided to visitors about the buildings, the park and gardens and the Roman fort and *vicus*.

Any proposed works to be undertaken on archaeological/historic sites and features and on historic buildings should be notified to Cambria Archaeology prior to the work being agreed. Cadw should be consulted on all works undertaken in the park and garden as it is in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales.

The iron fencing and the iron gate (PRN 44483) should be carefully cleaned and painted in order to protect from rust and prevent further deterioration in their condition.

Walled Gardens PRN44478 No further ground disturbance should be undertaken in the walled garden in order to protect the below ground archaeology. (Further information on this type of archaeology can be obtained from reports on gardens such as Aberglasney and Middleton Hall in Carmarthenshire. Reports available to view at the office of Cambria Archaeology.)

In order to maintain the walls the ivy should be cut but not removed. At the same time consolidation work should be undertaken to prevent further collapse. A solution should be found to the drainage problem and the trench infilled. No further disturbance should be undertaken without archaeological supervision. The scalplings/subsoil should be removed without disturbing the ground surface.

Maintain all trackways and their boundaries in current condition.

The farm is within Historic Landscape Character Areas 241 Dolaucothi-Pumpsaint and 243 Dolaucothi Gold Mines as indicated in bright green on the accompanying maps. The following are the general conservation priorities for these areas. The full HLCA entry is appended to this report.

241 Dolaucothi-Pumpsaint

Pumpsaint village is a Conservation area; any development must respect this status. The old house site and gardens are owned by the National Trust, who have formulated their own management plans. Outside the village and park the main priorities concern the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges, as this is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this

landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

243 Dolaucothi Goldmines

The National Trust is undertaking a long-term programme of restoration and conservation on the gold mines.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	1669	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66004100
Site Type	Finds	Period	Roman		

Description

This artefact is described as an item of 3rd/4th century gold wheel shaped jewellery with chain. It is currently on display in Carmarthen Museum, Abergwili. The jewellery was reportedly found in the late 18th or early 19th century in a field called *Cae garreg lwyd*. This piece may have been part of the hoard PRN 1958. The site was not identified during the visit.

Recommendations

In order to protect any buried archaeology that may remain at this site the area indicated on the attached map should not be ploughed. Any other sites or finds identified in this area should be notified to Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN	1956	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66004100
Site Type	Fort	Period	Roman	Site status	SAM CM226

Description

This Roman fort was occupied and rebuilt over a period of time from the late 1st century AD to the mid 2nd century AD. The centre of the fort is built over by Pumpsaint village. The part of the Roman Fort within the farm boundary contains the eastern ramparts which appear as earthworks. Following a geophysical survey undertaken in 1999 to show buried archaeology a settlement was identified to the east of the fort (PRN 44461). The ramparts of the fort along the lane are not very evident. The site is considered to be of national importance and as such is a scheduled ancient monument (Cadw reference Cm226) and protected by law. The site is currently used as pasture and as a sports field.

Recommendations

The current management is consistent with good management practice for this type of site. In order to protect buried archaeological remains and to preserve the remains of the earthworks no ground breaking works should be undertaken on or within 15 metres of the area outlined on the map accompanying this report. Stock feeders and gates should not be located within the same area and stock numbers should be maintained at a level that does not cause erosion to the site.

Site Category A

PRN	1958	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66004100
Site Type	Finds	Period	Roman		

Description

A hoard of Roman artefacts found in late 1700s/ early1800s in *Cae garreg lwyd*. PRN 1669 probably belongs to this hoard.

Recommendations

In order to protect any buried archaeology that may remain at this site the area indicated on the attached map should not be ploughed. Any other sites or finds identified in this area should be notified to Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN	7560	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66004100
Site Type	Standing Stone	Period	Bronze Age		

Description

This site has been identified from the field name *Cae garreg lwyd*. However, the source for this name is unknown. The usual source of field names is the parish tithe map but Cynwyl Gaeo tithe map does not name individual fields.

Recommendations

In order to protect any buried archaeology that may remain at this site the area indicated on the farm visit map should not be ploughed. Any other sites or finds identified in this area should be notified to Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN	20428	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66384073
Site Type	Farmhouse	Period	Post Medieval	Site status	LB2 16258

Description

The following description is taken from the Cadw listed building description.

“Built 1871, formerly the NW rear wing of Dolaucothi mansion. Dolaucothi was the seat of the Johnes family from the late 16th century: the house was mostly rebuilt in early 18th century. Some remodelling and low classical wings added 1793-95 by John Nash, architect for £995.18.0. Wings remodelled 1871 to hide new rear service wings. Rest of house demolished in mid 20th century.

Smooth-rendered elevations. Slate roof and plaster pediment moulding to left gable; a 20th century detail marking junction with demolished house. Rendered ridge chimney-stack to right of centre. Corbelled rendered bell- cote to right gable with ogee head rising to ball-finial. Two-storey 3-bay facade, 12-pane sashes, all hornless except ground-floor left. Plinth. Rear with full-length later single storey lean-to, three 12-pane hornless sash windows above to first floor. Left end with 2 ground-floor 12-pane horned sashes; 20th century gabled porch to left. Single-storey extension to right with 12-pane horned sash; lean-to porch to left with boarded door. Twelve-pane hornless sash above, to gable”.

Recommendations

A description of the house is included in this report because it is an important aspect of the history and setting of the Dolaucothi landscape. However, the farm dwelling is not subject to the Tir Gofal management agreement and management recommendations are not required.

Site Category B

PRN	24180	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66384073
Site Type	Park	Period	Post Medieval	Site status	PGW (Dy) 7 (CAM)

Description

As with most parkland the boundary of Dolaucothi Park has changed over time. The extent of the park indicated on the Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire VIII.SE, IX.SW, XVI.NE & XVII.NW does not include the field to the north of the entrance lane or the piece of land across the Afon Cothi. However, the nature of the tree planting within these fields suggests that they may have been managed as parkland at some time. The park is also listed in the Cadw/ICOMOS *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales* that is due for publication in 2001-2. The register indicates an area of parkland covering over 17 hectares. There are a number of features within the park that are recorded as individual sites, PRNs 44474, 44475, 44477, 44478, 44479.

Recommendations

As the park is in the Cadw/ICOMOS *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales* any proposed works within the park area should be undertaken in consultation with Cambria Archaeology and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. This includes works involving the individual sites listed in the park description.

Site Category A

PRN	44461	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN65724063
Site Type	<i>Vicus</i>	Period	Roman		

Description

A *vicus* is a non-military village/small town commonly found adjacent to a Roman fort. This site was identified in 1999 using geo-physical survey that identifies underground archaeological features and covers an area of approximately 80 metres x 90 metres. Nothing of this site can be seen above ground.

Recommendations

The current management is consistent with good management practice for this type of site. In order to protect buried archaeological remains and to preserve the remains of the earthworks no ground breaking works should be undertaken on or within 15 metres of the area outlined on the map accompanying this report. Stock feeders and gates should not be located within the same area and stocking levels should be maintained at a level that does not cause erosion to the site.

Site Category A



Plate 1 **Southern end of stable range PRN 44462**



Plate 2 **Northern end of stable range PRN 44462**

PRN	44462	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66474088
Site Type	Stable	Period	Post Medieval	Site Status	LB2 16259

Description

The southern end of this range of buildings is used by the National Trust as volunteer accommodation (Plate 1). The interior of this part and the upper floor of the entire range were not visited. This range is not on the map of *circa* 1770 but is recorded on the Cynwyl Gaeo tithe map of *circa* 1841.

The following description of the exterior of the buildings is taken from the Cadw listed building description (1995).

"Rubble-built. Slate roof, wooden soffits and barge-boards. Long 12-bay 2-storey elevation with uneven fenestration. The right-hand 7 bays are of the earlier range, with central projecting gabled bay. Nine-pane upper window to centre bay, cambered stone voussoired head. Three smaller 9-pane windows to left; head as above to centre; that to right is inserted, with brick head. Two similar windows to right; cambered stone voussoired head retained to left. Ground floor of projecting bay with wide round-arched cart-entry, stone voussoirs; paired planked doors with strap-hinges. Divided boarded door to right, cambered stone voussoired head, two 9-pane windows beyond to right; similar heads. Two similar windows to left of centre bay; divided boarded door to extreme left with similar head. The 5 left-hand bays are later. Three upper 9-pane windows; brick cambered heads. Boarded door to ground floor left; similar head. Two windows to right as above. Paired cart-entries to right, brick round-arched heads; square dressed stone pier; paired planked doors with branching strap-hinges. Wrought-iron weather-vane over front gable.

"Two inserted 20th century windows to right end. Left end with boarded loft door, cambered brick head; 20th century metal stair. Similar loft door on left, to end of added outshut, with loop below to left. Full-length later rear outshut, the 4 left bays much remodelled and extended. The next 3 bays are concealed behind a corrugated-iron lean-to, hiding three 2-light casement windows with cast-iron latticed glazing and cambered brick heads. 20th century corrugated shelter to right". The area in front of this range is cobbled.

For the purpose of this description the interior of the northern end of the stable range is divided in three; the central area with cart-entries, the southern end (plate 4) and the northern end (plate 5). The area inside the paired cart-entries has rendered walls and concrete floor. Moulded detail around the interior of the door and window openings on eastern walls are visible. This section is used as a work shop.

The interior of the southern end of this part of the range has pitched cobble flooring in chevron patterns. The cobbles have small areas of damage. The woodwork of the stalls remains in good condition and there are hay mangers on the west wall. The south end of this section has been modified using render and concrete. Part of the floor is concreted. The area to the front of the entire stable range is also cobbled and partly concreted. The ceiling is lath and plaster with some areas of decay. This section is used for storage.

The interior of the northern end of this part of the range is now used as calf housing. The floor is concrete and the ceiling is lath and plaster. The woodwork of the stalls remains in good condition and there are insets for hay mangers on the west wall.

Recommendations

Maintain the building in current condition. Care should be taken to prevent damage to the stalls from general wear and tear and from chewing/rubbing by animals (plate 6). Repair to damaged cobbling could prevent further deterioration. This should be undertaken using appropriate materials rather than patching with concrete. Likewise, repair to the lath and plaster could also be undertaken using appropriate materials. Any structural maintenance works should be undertaken using appropriate materials and techniques.

Site Category B

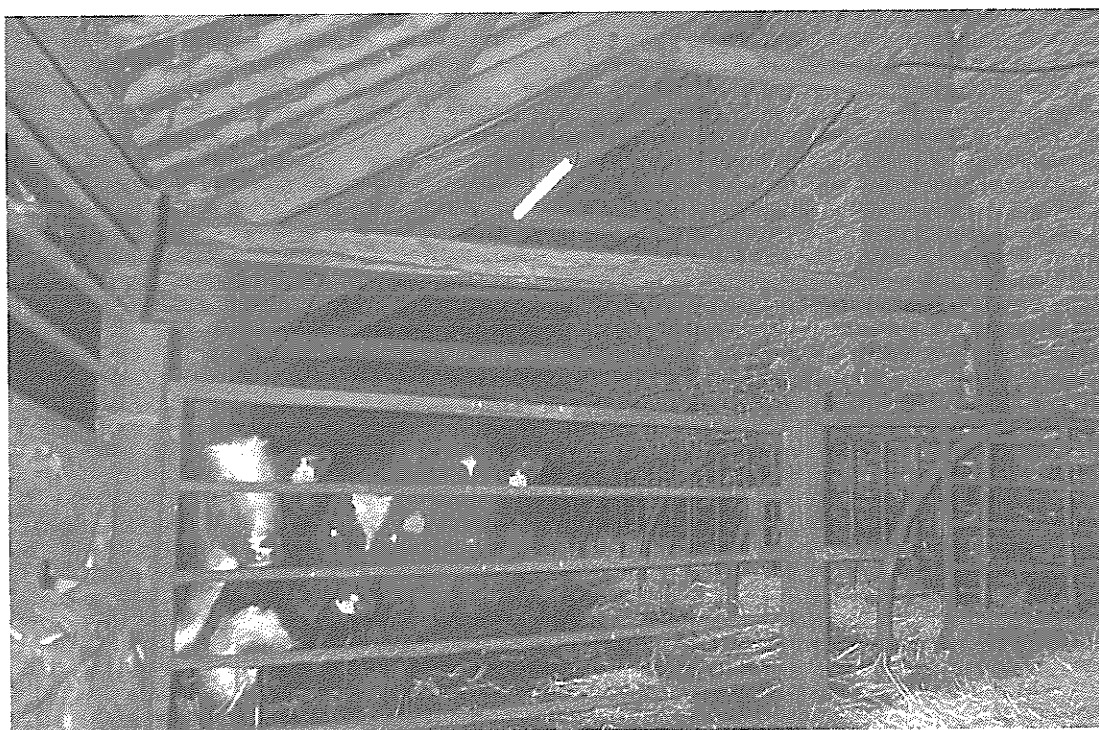


Plate 3 Outshut to rear of stable range PRN 44462

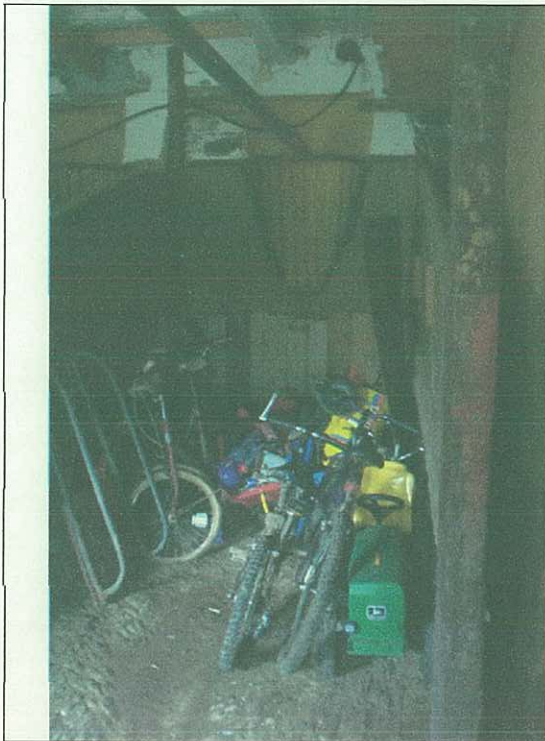


Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6

**Plate 4 Southern end of stable
range PRN 44462**

**Plate 5 Northern end of stable
range PRN 44462**

**Plate 6 Interior of northern end of
stable range PRN 44462**

PRN	44463	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66424087
Site Type	Threshing Barn	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The threshing barn (plate 7) is directly south of the cart shed and possible tack room (PRN 44464). These buildings have enclosing walls to the east and west to make a small yard with an entrance to the north. Rubble built with slate roof the barn is a rectangular building approximately 18 metres x 6.5 metres. It has large opposed doors to the east with smaller opposed doors to the west. The roof extends over the large door on the south side (plate 7). The barn has a loft door on the west gable (plate 8) and a narrow light on the south side. The building was recently re-roofed. This barn is probably the building noted on the map of the estate drawn *circa* 1770.

Recommendations

The barn should be maintained in its current condition. Any works should be undertaken using appropriate materials and techniques.

Site Category B



Plate7 Threshing Barn. View of west gable PRN 44463

PRN	44464	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66434087
------------	-------	------------------	------------	-----------------------	------------

Site Type Cart Shed

Period Post Medieval

Description

The cart shed and possible tack room (plate 8) are immediately north of the threshing barn. These buildings are not on the map of *circa* 1770 but is recorded on the Cynwyl Gaeo tithe map of *circa* 1841. These buildings have enclosing walls to the east and west to make a small yard with an entrance to the north. Built of rubble, and now with corrugated tin roof, the cart shed has four rounded pillars to the south. The openings between these pillars now have rubble infill. The eastern infill is topped with bricks allowing ventilation. The cart shed currently has a half loft along its length and a window in the east gable. The brickwork around this window suggests that this building may be the same age as the northern end of the stable range. The building has some breeze block repair and also some concrete repair. The cart shed is currently used to house calves. The small room at the north end of the building may have been a tack room for the cart shed. The room has a small door to the south and small openings in the north gable. No internal features were noted. This room is currently used to store old dairy equipment.

Recommendations

The cart shed and possible tack room should be maintained in their current condition. Any works should be undertaken using appropriate materials and techniques.

Site Category B



Plate 8 Cart shed and possible tack room PRN 44464

PRN	44465	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66494089
Site Type	Potato Clamp	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This building (plate 9) is north of the stable block and appears as a stone platform (plate 10). It is a rubble built vaulted structure with an entrance in the west wall and a small opening in the north end. The structure appears to be sound. It is currently used for storage. The potato clamp is not on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 but is recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1907.

Recommendations

Maintain in current condition using appropriate materials and techniques as necessary.

Site Category B



Plate 9 Interior of potato clamp PRN 44465

PRN	44466	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66484090
Site Type	Stock House	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Rubble built structure (plate 10) with newly slated roof and metal latticed windows, currently with metal sliding door. The stock house is not on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 but is recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1907. Built with the appearance of a small cottage this building appears to be around the same age as the stable range (PRN 44462). The structure appears to be sound but the windows are in poor condition. It is currently used to house calves.

Recommendations

The windows require urgent remedial action to prevent further deterioration and to maintain the character of the building. Otherwise, maintain the structure in its current condition using appropriate materials and techniques.

Site Category B



Plate 10 Stock house PRN 44466 with shed PRN 44467 and potato clamp PRN 44465 to right and side wall of poultry house to left PRN 44468.

PRN	44467	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66484089
Site Type	Shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A shed with timber supports and corrugated tin roof is located between the stock house and the potato clamp (plate 10). This shed is not on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 but is recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1907. This is a good example of the continuing change in building materials and techniques to be found on this farm as well as an important example of the maximisation of space within the farmyard. This shed is currently used for storage.

Recommendations

Maintain this shed in current condition.

Site Category B

PRN	44468	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66464091
Site Type	Poultry House & Run	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A poultry house (plate 10) with attached run is built onto the back of the stock houses. Rubble and breeze block structure with tin roof. This building does not appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1964 and is probably a very recent feature. Currently unused this feature is becoming overgrown with vegetation.

Recommendations

This building should be maintained in its current condition. Vegetation should be controlled to prevent damage to the structure and to maintain the building as a visible feature.

Site Category C

PRN	44469	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66464091
Site Type	Milking Parlour Range	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Rubble built with new slate roof (plate 11) this well maintained building is in use as a milking parlour. The interior walls are rendered and floor concreted. This range of buildings is not on the map of *circa* 1770 but is recorded on the Cynwyl Gaeo tithe map of *circa* 1841.

Recommendations

Maintain in current condition. Any maintenance works should be undertaken using appropriate materials and techniques. Where this is not possible due to the current function of the building specialist advice should be sought before undertaking any work to ensure that the character of the building is maintained as far as possible.

Site Category B



Plate 11 Milking Parlour Range PRN 44469

PRN	44470	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66434083
Site Type	Mill (site of)	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

According to the map of *circa* 1770 the mill was situated to the west of the house. Nothing is visible of this site which is in the garden of the current farmhouse.

Recommendations

No ground disturbance should be undertaken in this area without archaeological advice.

Site Category D

PRN	44471	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN664408
Site Type	Mill Leat	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

According to the map of *circa* 1770 this leat ran to the mill that was situated to the west of the house. Nothing of this site was noted during the visit.

Recommendations

No ground disturbance should be undertaken in this area without archaeological advice.

Site Category D

PRN	44472	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66214052; SN65864040
Site Type	Mill Race	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The following description is taken from the National Trust report on Dolaucothi. " Mill race running from the Cothi river across level fields to the site of Dolaucothi Mill. Although in places reduced to little more than a terrace, the race can be up to 1m deep and 3m wide. It mostly runs along a hedge line, but where it crosses open field double banks about 1m in height can be seen. At the mill end the race merges into a garden. Originally a sluice controlled the flow from the Cothi river into the race, but no evidence of this survives. The mill race is approximately 360 metres in length.

Recommendations

Maintain in current condition as visible historic landscape feature. No ground breaking works to be undertaken on the course of the mill race such as tree planting or ploughing.

Site Category B

PRN	44473	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66204053
Site Type	Weir & Sluice	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The following description is taken from the National Trust report on Dolaucothi. " A weir and sluice are indicated at this location on the 2nd edition (1905) OS map. [this probably refers to Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire XVII.1]. All that can be seen at this spot today is a number of large boulders at the edge of the Afon Cothi, possibly emplaced to prevent erosion, but conceivably the remains of these structures". These sites have been so well destroyed that their precise location on the ground is not possible to pinpoint without the aid of an old map." A map of 1948 shows these features still in use.

Recommendations

No ground breaking works should be undertaken in the area and any remains of these features should be left in place.

Site Category B

PRN	44474	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66304074
Site Type	Pond	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Possibly created from a re-routing of the Afon Cothi this pond is in front of the mansion and was a substantial garden feature (Plate 12). It is approximately 160 metres in length and its edge is not clearly defined at the northern end. The National Trust report notes some pipe work at the edge of the pond but this was not identified during the visit. From map evidence it appears that the pond has changed size and shape quite a lot over the years.

Recommendations

Any works on or near this feature, including clearing, dredging, widening, deepening etc, should be undertaken in consultation with Cambria Archaeology and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. Otherwise, maintain in current condition. Due to the lack of definition to some parts of the pond these recommendations should apply to the entire area of pond and wet ground adjacent to it.

Site Category



Plate 12 View of pond looking west to dam and lower level of park directly in front of the mansion PRN 44474

PRN	44475	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66564081
Site Type	<i>Ty Bach</i>	Period	Post Medieval		

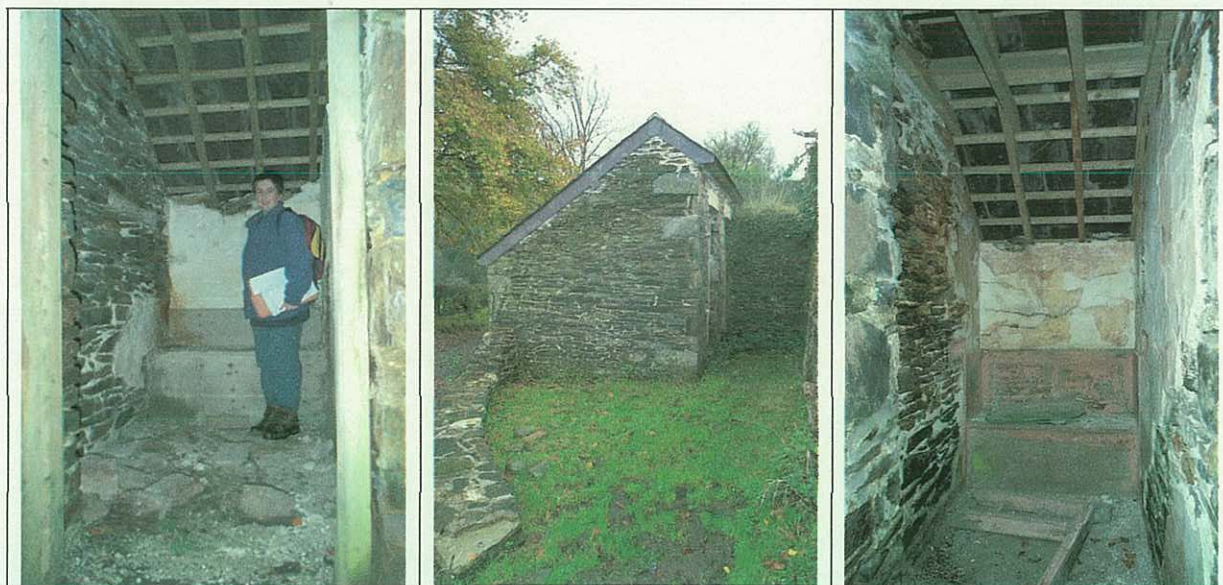
Description

A rubble built *ty bach* with four, individually accessed, cubicles with stone floor. Two cubicles are accessed from the walled garden and two from the trackway. A wall separates the entrances of the two pairs of cubicles (plate 13b). The interiors have fragmentary plasterwork remaining with evidence of paint/limewash. Some woodwork remains around the seating areas. The building has been recently roofed.

Recommendations

It appears that the work on this structure is on-going. Further work should be undertaken with archaeological advice and supervision and any existing remains of this structure should be carefully maintained in their current location and condition.

Site Category B



a

b

c

Plate 13 a, b, c Ty Bach PRN 44476

a Interior of northernmost cubicle showing sitting platform and wall construction

b Exterior of Ty bach looking south from trackway showing entrances to two cubicles and dividing wall separating the entrances into the two cubicles accessed from the walled garden.

c Interior of southernmost cubicle showing remains of woodwork around the seat.

PRN	44476	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66344066
Site Type	Park features (unknown)	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A break in the 'bank' as indicated on the attached map, possibly the location for steps leading to a sub rectangular feature opposite the front of the mansion. This feature is approximately 2 metres x 2 metres and approximately 0.5 metres in height. The nature of this feature is not obvious. It may be a viewing platform, a statue base or other similar garden feature.

Recommendations

No ground disturbance should be undertaken in this area without archaeological advice and this area should not be used for locating livestock feeders.

Site Category A

PRN	44477	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66454076; SN66364084
Site Type	Ha Ha	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The ha ha is located in front of the mansion separating the park from the garden. The ha ha allows an uninterrupted view from the mansion into the park while keeping livestock at a distance from the house. On the mansion side the ha ha consists of a stone revetment wall approximately 1.5 metres in height with a ditch and bank on the park side. The ditch contains standing water and a depth was not ascertained during the visit. The ha ha does not extend the length of this boundary. At it's southeastern end the retaining wall contains a set of steps into the garden and the remaining boundary consists of a hedgerow with a decorative iron gate and gate posts allowing access into the garden to the east (see map). The gate is set in traditional parkland fencing. The hedgerow conceals the walled garden.

Recommendations

Maintain this boundary in its current condition. If work is to be undertaken on this boundary please consult Cambria Archaeology for advice. Any consolidation work on the retaining wall should be undertaken using appropriate materials. The gate is in a poor state of repair and consideration should be given to conserving this important park feature. Maintain the parkland railing in current condition.

Site Category A

PRN	44478	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66524079
Site Type	Walled Gardens	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The following description is taken from the National Trust report on Dolaucothi. "All that remains of the walled garden at Dolaucothi are walls up to 3m high forming a roughly rectangular enclosure to the south of the remaining house. A dressed stone gateway flanked by yew trees is set into the east facing wall. Masonry marks suggest that this gateway has been modified, possibly since the garden was abandoned. The internal walls of an outer section on the south facing wall suggest that the area was at one stage blocked off. Extensive rebuilding has occurred in the north eastern corner where there is now a low wall topped with brick. A large millstone is incorporated into this wall, which, the current tenant asserts, was salvaged from the Mill at Dolaucothi. Early editions of the OS 25 inch map (1885, 1940) [Ordnance Survey Carmarthenshire IX.13] show two walled gardens but no evidence of a sub division remains today.

There appears to be a cold frame in the northeast corner. Behind to the north is an irregular enclosure containing outhouses, glasshouses and another cold frame. Only the small buildings, the ty bachs, in the eastern corner have survived (PRN 44476). The date of construction of these gardens is unknown. They do not appear on the tithe map, but then, the Cao Tithe Map contains few details."

There is currently a trench on the east side of the walled garden which appears to be used for draining foul water. In addition, a quantity of scalplings/subsoil has been spread across the north east corner of the walled garden. There is a substantial area of collapse on the north east wall of the garden caused by cutting ivy that had penetrated the masonry. (Plate 14) Other areas of the wall are covered in ivy growth. The south-west wall is supported by brick buttresses of some antiquity (Plate 15).

Recommendations

No further ground disturbance should be undertaken in the walled garden in order to protect the below ground archaeology. (Further information on this type of archaeology can be obtained from reports on gardens such as Aberglasney and Middleton Hall in Carmarthenshire. Reports available to view at the office of Cambria Archaeology.)

In order to maintain the walls the ivy should be cut but not removed. At the same time consolidation work should be undertaken to prevent further collapse. A solution should be found to the drainage problem and the trench infilled. No further disturbance should be undertaken without archaeological supervision. The scalplings/subsoil should be removed without disturbing the ground surface.

Site Category A



Plate 14 Eastern, collapsed, side of walled garden



Plate 15 South west external corner of walled garden with buttresses

PRN	44479	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66484090
Site Type	Garden	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The following description is taken from the National Trust report on Dolaucothi. This garden is an “enclosure containing unkempt vegetation including garden plants such as Wellingtonias, as well as at least two rockeries and several selected large boulders of quartz. There is also a c.1m wide x 30cm deep channel running across this area, the purpose of which is obscure. It may be a decorative feature (eg. part of a water garden) or it may be part of a feeder channel to carry water to the large, landscaped pond to the east of the house”.

Recommendations

If any work is to be undertaken in this area a full survey should be undertaken and both Cambria Archaeology and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments should be consulted in advance.

Site Category B



Plate 16 Garden PRN 44479

PRN	44480	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66544090
Site Type	Bridge	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The following description is taken from the National Trust report on Dolaucothi. "A simple wooden bridge between stone piers across the Cothi on the trackway linking Dolaucothi House with the Ogafau Lodge. The central portion has a concrete base with wooden rails. Late 19th century photographs suggest that the original bridge was wooden with criss-crossed fencing at either side to give a rusticated appearance. The stone piers have dressed quoins and roughly coursed walls which curve outwards away from the bridge. The bridge was repaired in the 1970s and is in good condition. The original splay was altered for the reconstruction."

Recommendations

Maintain the bridge in its current condition.

Site Category

PRN	44481	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66484090
Site Type	Pheasantry	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This site was identified from Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire XVII.I. The site was not visited.

Recommendations

Maintain all traces of the pheasantry in current condition.

Site Category

PRN	44482	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66544090
Site Type	Mill Stone	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This mill stone, measuring approximately 1.5 metres with a central, square hole, is set upright in a stone wall. The stone is said to have come from the mill in Pumpsaint village.

Recommendations

The stone should be maintained in its current location and condition.

Site Category B

PRN	44483	Site Name	Dolaucothi	Grid Reference	SN66554069
Site Type	Fence & Gate	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Iron railings, typical of this type of parkland and a very ornate iron gate with decorative motifs. The gate in particular is suffering from rust and is deteriorating.

Recommendations

The iron fencing and the iron gate should be carefully cleaned and painted in order to protect from rust and prevent further deterioration in their condition.

Site Category A

SITE AND AREA STATUS

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

- Cadw 1995 Listed Building descriptions for Dolaucothi house and stable block
- Cadw/ICOMOS in press *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*, Cardiff, Cadw
- Cadw/ICOMOS 1998 *Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales 2.1: Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest*, Cardiff, Cadw
- Cambria Archaeology 2000 *Historic Landscape Characterisation*, unpublished report, Sites and Monuments Record, Llandeilo
- Jones, Francis 1987 *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes*, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, 55-56
- Lloyd, Thomas 1986 *The Lost Houses of Wales*, London, Save Britain's Heritage.
- National Trust 1998 *The Dolaucothi Estate*, unpublished report
- Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions in Wales 1917 *Volume V County of Carmarthen* No.113, 25-6
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire VIII.SE
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire IX.SW
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XVI.NE
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XVII.NW
- Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire VIII.SE
- Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire IX.SW
- Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire XVI.NE
- Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire XVII.NW
- Ordnance Survey 1888 Carmarthenshire IX.13
- Ordnance Survey 1888 Carmarthenshire VIII.16
- Ordnance Survey 1888 Carmarthenshire XVII.1
- Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire XVII.1
- Ordnance Survey 1887 Carmarthenshire XVI.4
- Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire XVI.4
- Tithe Map 1841? Cynwyl Gaeo Parish
- Tithe Apportionment 1839 Cynwyl Gaeo Parish
- undated estate map circa 1770, NLW Aberystwyth
- undated estate map, NLW Aberystwyth

APPENDIX

CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 241 DOLAUCOTHI - PUMPSAINT

GRID REFERENCE: SN 663409

AREA IN HECTARES: 126.90

Historic Background

A small character area centred on the village of Pumpsaint which is a linear settlement either side of the A482, at the confluence of the Afon Cothi with its tributary, the Afon Twrch. It once lay within Cwmwd Cao of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284, and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. The A482 follows the line of the Roman road between the forts at Llandovery (*Alabum*) and Llanio (*Bremia*), past the Roman gold mines of Area 243 that were operational by the 1st century AD and necessitated the construction of a fort on the level ground beneath the present village. The fort site, *Louentium*, has been partially excavated (Jones and Little, 1974), and featured a detached bath-house building. Roman activity may have influenced subsequent settlement patterns. It has been claimed (Jones 1994, 88) that some gold exploitation persisted into the post-Roman period affecting the status of the surrounding area, which came to be regarded as important enough to be mentioned in the marginalia of the Book of St Chad (Jones 1994, 88), while a Medieval chapel, 'Llanpumsaint', erected within the fort ramparts probably has pre-Conquest origins (Sambrook and Page 1994, 4). It was a chapel-of-ease to Cao parish mentioned in the will of Rhys Fychan in 1271 (*ibid.*), and was marked on Saxton's map of Carmarthenshire of 1578. However, there is no evidence that it was accompanied by any nucleation. The development of the present village was probably encouraged by the Post-Medieval development of the Roman road into an important droving road and, from the late 18th-century, a mail road, and by the Post-Medieval Dolaucothi estate within which the village partly lay. The present pattern of large, regular fields also suggests estate remodelling of the landscape. By the later 19th century Pumpsaint village contained a post office, public house, hall and stores. Dolaucothi House occupies the valley floor to the east of the village and was established by the Johnes family, a branch of the Jones family of Abermarlais, by 1679 when the house was already a building of some size, containing six hearths; in 1704 it was described as 'the capital messuage called 'Tyddyn Dole Cothi' (Jones 1987, 56). It was practically rebuilt in 1792-6 and by 1873 the estate comprised 3172 acres (*ibid.*). The house was requisitioned during the Second World War, the lead was stripped from the roofs and it was demolished in 1951 (Whittle 1999). The grounds were taken over by the National Trust in 1956. At the north end of the area is Brunant, a surviving gentry house with late 16th- or 17th-century origins (Jones 1987, 15).

Description and essential historic landscape components

This is a relatively small but complex character area. It lies across the valley floor and lower valley sides of the Afon Cothi upstream of Pumpsaint village at between 120 m and 200 m. In essence it is a late 18th- and 19th-century estate landscape which is superimposed over earlier landscape elements. There are two foci: Dolaucothi House and Pumpsaint village. The late 18th- and early 19th-century house at Dolaucothi has been demolished, except for a northern wing which now serves as a farmhouse. A coach house also survives. Many elements of the park and gardens associated with the house also survive, including a walled garden, a ha-ha, drives and possible landscaping for walks along the river. The most distinctive element of the park, however, is the planting, with many fine specimen trees remaining. The whole of the floodplain of the Cothi retains a parkland appearance. At the northeastern end of the area the early 19th-century gentry house of Brunant and its setting continue the parkland aspect to the Cothi floodplain upstream of the former house of Dolaucothi. A Roman fort lies beneath Pumpsaint village, but little surface evidence for it survives. Houses and other buildings in the village date mainly to the mid 19th-century, and were constructed by the Dolaucothi estate with a distinctive signature - a 'pattern-book' style of coursed rubble walls, steeply pitched slate roofs, barge- and fascia-boards (red painted) and casement windows with

diamond panes. A chapel in the village dates to 1875, and close to it is a terrace of late 19th-century two-storey 'villa' houses not in the estate style. 20th century development is limited to a corrugated iron - tin - village hall and a few houses. Outside the village and parkland the area is divided into small irregular fields of improved pasture by earth banks topped by hedges. Hedges are not in good condition apart from those alongside roads and tracks. Many have long gaps and others are derelict. There are many distinctive hedgerow trees. Dispersed farms and other dwellings are generally in the Dolaucothi 1850s 'pattern book' style. Outbuildings to the farms are in the same style. Apart from the A482 road which runs through Pumpsaint village, transport links are local - minor roads, lanes and tracks.

Recorded archaeology provides great time-depth, with nearly all periods being represented. It comprises a Neolithic findspot, a Bronze Age standing stone, the Roman road, fort, baths and coin hoard, the Medieval chapel site, an unknown cropmark, parkland features associated with the Dolaucothi estate, and buildings.

There are many distinctive buildings, most of them constructed on behalf of the Dolaucothi estate. The house at Dolaucothi has gone but the site represents an early 19th-century parkland with remnants of possible lime avenue, two enclosed gardens extant c. 1770, totally remodelled c. 1790, and altered and improved in the early 19th-century. The walled garden is partially intact and the whole is entered as ref. number PGW (Dy) 1 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle 1999). The stable block, carthouse, lodge and home farm are Grade II listed. Brunant, which contains 16th- or 17th-century elements, is also Grade II listed. There are 14 other Grade II listed buildings within the character area including Salem chapel from 1875, the public house, village hall, post office, stores, war memorial, forge and K6 telephone kiosk.

Although this area has very distinct historic components, its boundaries are not well defined; it merges with neighbouring areas to the northeast, east and southwest (Areas 242, 246 and 253), but is better defined to the south against Dolaucothi Gold Mines (Area 243).

Conservation priorities

Pumpsaint village is a Conservation area; any development must respect this status. The old house site and gardens are owned by the National Trust, who have formulated their own management plans. Outside the village and park the main priorities concern the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges, as this is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: DOLAUCOTHI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 243 DOLAUCOTHI GOLD MINES

GRID REFERENCE: SN 664402

AREA IN HECTARES: 44.84

Historic Background

A very small character area encompassing the gold mines at Dolaucothi. Although there is evidence for earlier exploitation, the present mining complex was initiated under the Romans, and represents the most advanced mine-working yet discovered in Britain; their end product was bullion for the imperial mints and may have been one of the motives for the conquest of Britain. Most of this section is taken from Jones and Lewis, 1971, augmented with Burnham *passim*. The mines were established during the initial wave of subjugation of southwest Wales, in 75-80 AD, and continued production until the end of the 4th century. A timber drainage wheel from one of the deep stopes has been C¹⁴ dated to c.50 BC, while coins found in the vicinity run from the 1st century down to the reigns of Valentinian and Valens, 364-375 AD (James 182, 33). Mines such as these remained under military control and to this end a fort was established on level ground at Pumsaint immediately to the west (Area 241). The area exhibits a complex of adits, hushes, stopes and areas of fire-setting characteristic of early mining techniques, but not necessarily all are Roman. It has been claimed (Jones 1994, 88) that some gold extraction persisted into the post-Roman period, but that it may have exploited alluvial deposits. It was certainly being undertaken during the later Medieval period, possibly under the Premonstratensians of Talley Abbey (a possible spoil tip has long been interpreted as a motte). It continued into the Post-Medieval period, and fairly large quantities of 17th century pottery have been found low down in one of the main leats and dams (James 1982, 33). After a hiatus, mining resumed in c.1870 and lasted until 1910, under the direction of an Australian, a Mr Mitchell, who reopened many of the earlier workings. A second modern operation began in 1934 under 'Roman Deep Holdings Ltd' and continued until the outbreak of the Second World War, during which the drainage wheel was recovered. The site was acquired by the National Trust after the war.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This very small character area lies across hilly northwest-facing slopes which range from 120 m to over 200 m and which are heavily wooded, including semi-natural deciduous woods, deciduous plantations and conifer plantations. There is a little improved pasture on the periphery. The mines are now owned by the National Trust and run as a tourist and research centre. The Trust has re-established a selection of mining buildings for visitor use, re-erected head-gear over a shaft, laid out paths and walks, and constructed car parks. However, the old mining remains are the most obvious and massive components of the area. The most apparent mining feature is the main Roman open-cast. It is in this deep pit with craggy, wooded slopes that the majority of the mining buildings have been re-erected. Included in the main-open cast are other mining features, some of Roman date such as tanks to store water, and others of Post-Medieval date such as shafts, adits and secondary open-casts. Mining features outside the main open-cast litter the landscape: smaller open-cast workings (some of unknown date), Roman tanks and leats, washing tables, spoil heaps, trial workings, inclines, tramways, adits and shafts. There is hardly a single square metre of the character area that has not been affected by mining. Recorded archaeology is mainly confined to the mining features already noted, in addition to which may be mentioned the possible motte, a pounding-stone long mythologised as 'Carreg Pumsaint', and a possible holy well. There are few buildings within the area and none are distinctive.

The mining components of this landscape provide its distinct character. Some elements such as leats and tanks run off into Area 246 to the northeast, but on other sides there is a sharp contrast and boundary between this area and the neighbouring areas of villages, farms and fields (Areas 241, 244 and 253).

Conservation priorities

The National Trust are undertaking a long-term programme of restoration and conservation on the gold mines.

Dolaucothi W/12/2469
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

REPORT NUMBER 2002/30

April 2002

This report has been prepared by Eleanor Breen

Position Heritage Management Archaeologist

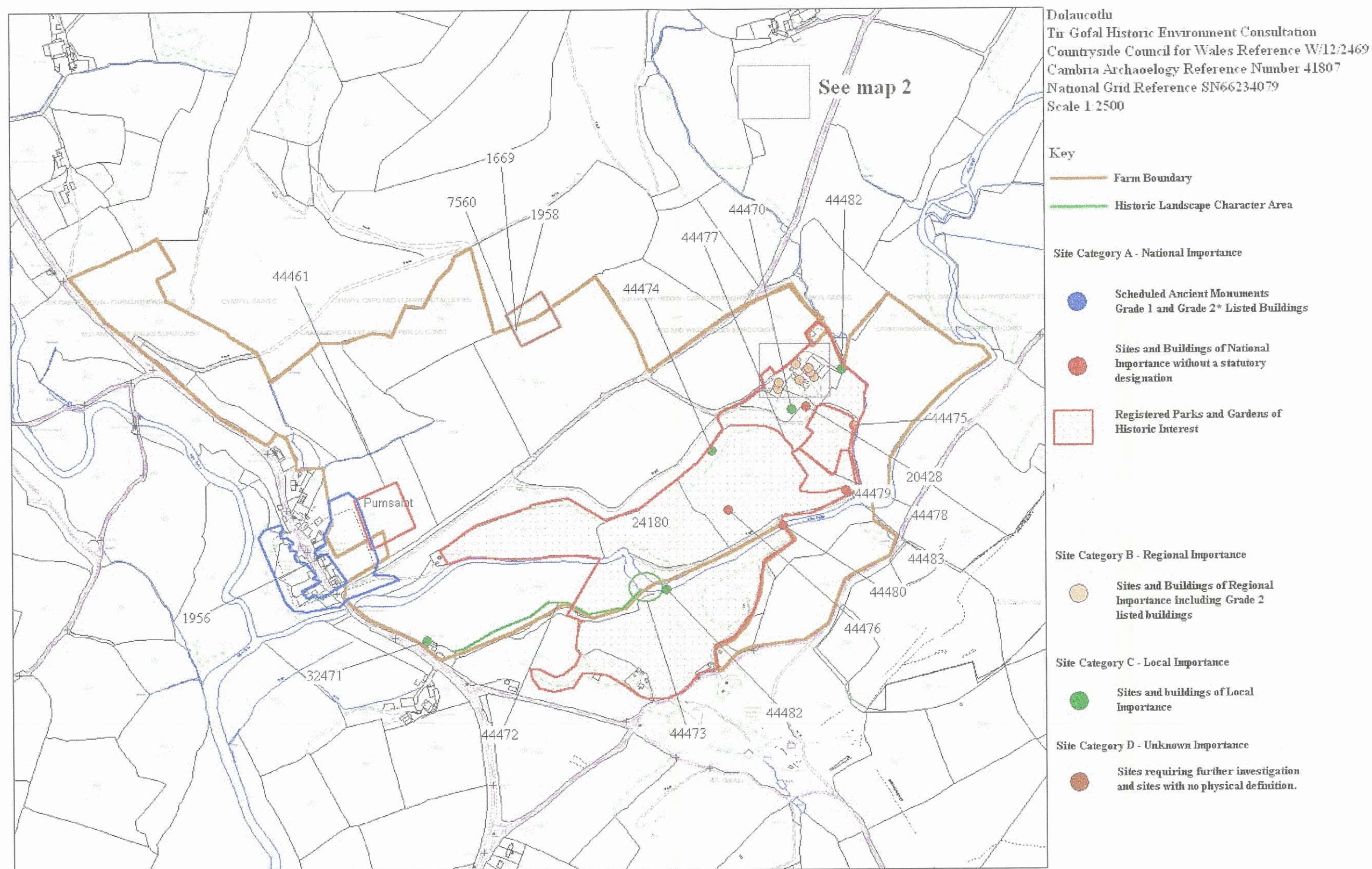
Signature Eleanor Breen Date 10 June 2002

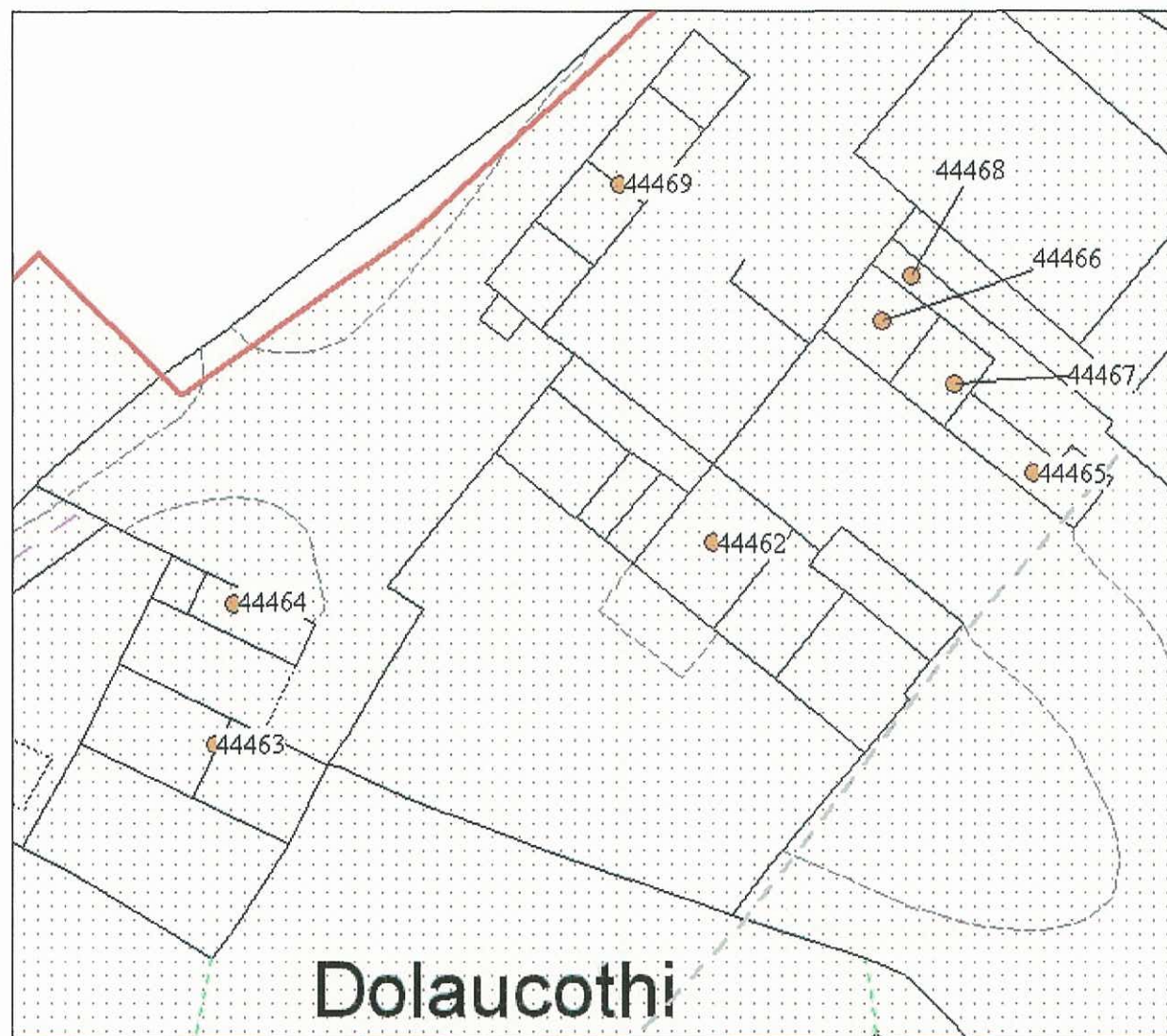
This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 11/06/02

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





Dolaucothi

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/2469
 Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 41807
 National Grid Reference SN66234079
 Scale 1:500

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

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.

This map is reproduced from the OS map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.

All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272221

GD 27 28256