

Gwarglwydeth

W/12/2367

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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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

Gwarglwydeth (PRN 44521) consists of two separate land holdings. The holding, which incorporates the farmstead of Gwarglwydeth, is situated to the east of New Inn and lies on the very edge of the open mountain of Mynydd Llanllwni. It covers an area of approximately 32 hectares consisting of medium sized regularly shaped fields. The field boundaries vary in nature from post and wire, hedges and hedged banks and some later boundaries are composed of mature rows of beech trees.

At the time of the Tithe survey of Llanllwny parish in 1842 the farm formed part of the Perth y berllan estate owned by George Saunders. The farmstead of Gwarglwydeth did not exist at this stage, and the only building shown on the Tithe map is that referred to as “Wel ? - goch House and Land”. This building no longer survives above ground however the traces of it and the associated enclosure can still be seen at the southern corner of the holding (PRN 44522).

The pattern of field boundaries which can be seen today, had already been established when the Tithe survey was recorded. Some fields were further subdivided by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, by which time the farmstead of Gwarglwydeth had also been constructed. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map also shows an enclosure (PRN 44523) situated in the corner of a field to the north west of the farmstead, which Mrs. Evans remembers as the old orchard.

The farmstead is L-shaped situated against the south eastern boundary of the farm, which adjoins the open mountain. It consists of a double fronted farmhouse with a pitched slate roof, with an adjoining cow shed (PRN 44524) and a further cow shed at right angles to the first (PRN 44525). To the south west of the farmstead is a partially stone lined pond (PRN 44526). A Dutch barn (PRN 44527) is situated to the north east of the farmstead. Further modern agricultural buildings have been built onto the west side of the historic farmstead.

The farm is owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Evans who take a great interest in the history of the farm, and Mrs Evans' family has lived on the farm for at least 3 generations.

The second land holding is situated approximately 5 km to the south west of Gwarglwydeth and covers an area of 36 hectares of rectangular medium sized fields. The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1907 indicate that some field boundaries have been lost. The surviving boundaries are generally stone and earth banks. However the remains of hedgerows survive in places lining the boundary banks, but in most places these have been superseded by other forms of fencing. The track ways which lead to the deserted settlements of Coedllwyndan and Bwrgwm still remain as distinct features with well constructed stone banks.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Both the farm holdings have vestiges of earlier settlements surviving which, along with associated features such as field boundaries and track ways, are an important element of the historic landscape.

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

PRN 44522 Enclosure and cottage site

The enclosure is currently used as an area for sheep feeding; consequently a large concentration of animals in this confined space is leading to considerable erosion within the enclosure and of the boundary banks. It is recommended therefore to relocate the sheep feeder elsewhere and to control stock numbers in this area to allow some vegetation to regenerate. The area within the enclosure is likely to contain sensitive archaeological deposits including the remains of the house platform in the east corner. No ground disturbing activities should take place in this area.

PRN 22622 Byrgwm Cottage

This building is currently threatened by tree fall. The remains of the fallen tree, which lies across the east end of the building, should be carefully removed. A scheme of woodland and vegetation management should be introduced which will help to prevent further tree fall from damaging the structure. Ideally the upstanding masonry of the structure should be consolidated.

PRN 44531 Pigsties

It is advisable that the roof is repaired as soon as possible and the structure made watertight.

PRN 44532 Pond

The pond and the associated sluice and leat are structures which are sensitive to any forms of disturbance. Currently they are in a fairly stable condition. However, the ash trees, which surround the pond, should be carefully managed to prevent tree fall which may damage the pond structure.

PRN 44533 Wheel pit

This structure survives in fair condition at present, which should be maintained. The mature tree growing to the side of the wheel pit should be managed to prevent any damage to the masonry structure.

The area surrounding the wheel pit may contain other features associated with the mill complex, therefore it is recommended that archaeological advice is sought prior to any works being carried out in this area.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	44522	Site Name	Wel - goch	Grid Reference	SN48663676
Site Type	Cottage and enclosure	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The Tithe survey of 1842 records a rectangular building in the east corner of a larger rectangular enclosure. This is recorded as “Wel? - goch House and Land” and falls within the estate of Perth y berllan. The site was accessed from the farm of Perth y berllan by a track, which runs up the edge of the Allt Perth y berllan wood above the Afon Glwydeth. At the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 the building is no longer identified and the enclosure is planted with trees.

The track, which leads to the enclosure from Perth y berllan house and farm, also survives lined with herringbone stone banks (plate 1). Currently the enclosure is still visible, defined now by low earth banks lined with mature trees. In places the banks are considerably eroded.

Low stone banks and a general spread of stone also mark the site of the cottage (plate 2). It measures approximately 7 x 3m orientated on a north west – south east axis.

Recommendations

The enclosure is currently used as an area for sheep feeding; consequently the large concentration of animals in the confined space is leading to considerable erosion within the enclosure and of the boundary banks. It is recommended therefore to relocate the sheep feeder elsewhere and to control stock numbers in this area to allow some vegetation to regenerate. The area within the enclosure is likely to contain sensitive archaeological deposits including the remains of the house platform in the east corner. No ground disturbing activities should take place in this area.

Site Category C



Plate 1 – the track which leads up to the enclosure (PRN 44522) from Perth y berllan.



Plate 2 – the enclosure with the site of the cottage in the foreground (PRN 44522)

PRN	44523	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN48703712
Site Type	Enclosure	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the north west of the farmstead of Gwarglwydeth is a long rectangular enclosure located in the north corner of the field (plate 3). The enclosure is defined by low earth banks c. 0.6m high, lined with mature trees. The enclosure is first identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. Mrs. Evans remembers this as the old orchard. The interior of the enclosure is now devoid of any fruit trees. The enclosure is no longer stock proof except for a small area, which has been fenced off in the centre around a deep disposal pit.

Recommendations

The low boundary banks of the enclosure should be maintained in a stable condition and retained as a visible feature. It is recommended that no further pits are excavated within the enclosure.

Site Category C



Plate 3 – the site of an enclosure to the west of the farm (PRN 44523)

PRN	44524	Site Name	Gwarglwydeth	Grid Reference	SN48893697
Site Type	Cow Shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Adjacent to the farmhouse is a cow shed which is constructed in rubble stone work, with roughly dressed quoins (plate 4). The pitched roof is covered in corrugated iron. It has undergone various modifications, including a wide entrance inserted in the north west facing elevation. A blocked window opening is also visible in this elevation. The north west gable end has largely been rebuilt with breeze block. The south east elevation has a lean to constructed against it and a window has been positioned in an earlier doorway, with a stone lintel and concrete sill.

Recommendations

The cow shed is currently in a stable condition, it should continue to be maintained using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Plate 4 – the cow shed (PRN 44524) positioned to west of the farmhouse.

PRN	44525	Site Name	Gwarglwydeth	Grid Reference	SN48883697
Site Type	Cow Shed	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A cow shed is positioned at right angles to the farmhouse and adjoining cow shed (PRN 44524). This is also constructed out of rubble stonework, roughly coursed with a round topped corrugated iron roof (plate 5). There are two doorways in the south east facing elevation, each with cobbling to the front of the stone thresholds. The southern doorway has concrete setting at the base in which is inscribed 1965. Two windows are positioned alternately with the doorways.

Recommendations

The cow shed is currently in a stable condition, it should continue to be maintained using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Plate 5 – the cow shed (PRN 44525) which is positioned to the north west of the farmyard.

PRN	44526	Site Name	Gwarglwydeth	Grid Reference	SN48873694
Site Type	Pond	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A pond is situated to the south east of the farm (plate 6). This is lined with rubble stonework at the lower, south west side. To the west the pond has been breached and the water level is consequently very low.

Recommendations

The pond should be retained; if any works are considered to reinstate the pond archaeological advice should be sought first.

Site Category C



Plate 6 – the pond (PRN 44526) to the south of the farmstead.

PRN	44527	Site Name	Gwarglwydeth	Grid Reference	SN48913700
Site Type	Dutch Barn	Period	Modern		

Description

To the north east of the farmstead is a large Dutch barn, constructed out of H-sectioned supports with a corrugated iron roof. Large outshoots are situated to either side.

Recommendations

The Dutch barn is in good condition at present, this should be maintained.

Site Category C

PRN 44528

**Site
Name**

Grid Reference SN46083297

Site Type Pond

Period Post Medieval

Description

A roughly circular pond, between 9-10m in diameter, is constructed with stone and earth revetment banks to the south west (down slope). The retaining banks are approximately 1m high and 2m wide with stone outcropping on the external faces (plate 7). The pond is fed by two water channels, the first comes from the roadside to the north and the second from a straight channel c.46m in length to the north east which appears to feed from a natural spring.

Recommendations

This pond should be retained as a visible landscape feature. Archaeological consultation should be sought if any works are to be undertaken on the pond.

Site Category C



Plate 7 – the pond (PRN 44528) constructed with stone and earth banks.

PRN	44529	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN46133298
Site Type	Mound	Period	Unknown		

Description

To the west of the pond is a roughly circular mound approximately 0.3m in height and 6.5m in diameter (plate 8). The mound is covered entirely with turf and no stone work was observed. It is unknown what this feature is, it's proximity to the pond and water channel may indicate that it may be a feature associated with their construction.

Recommendations

This mound should be retained as a visible landscape feature. No ground disturbing activities should take place which might damage the profile of this feature.

Site Category C



Plate 8 – low earth mound (PRN 44529) to the east of the pond.

PRN	22621	Site Name	Coedllwyndan	Grid Reference	SN46543278
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1907) of this settlement shows a large rectangular enclosure in the north corner of the field, planted with conifers. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map identifies at least three rectangular structures in the southern quarter of the enclosure with two additional enclosures to the south west.

Today the site of these structures appears to have been largely quarried away and the enclosure banks are the only remaining structures (plate 9). The enclosure walls survive to a height of approximately 1m high, 14m long and 6m wide and are constructed out of stone laid vertically on end.

Recommendations

The remains of this settlement should be retained as a visible landscape feature. No further quarrying or other ground disturbing activities should be carried out in this area.

Site Category C



Plate 9 – the vestigial remains of the deserted settlement of Coedllwyndan (PRN 22621)

PRN	44530	Site Name	Coedllwyndan	Grid Reference	SN46533275
Site Type	Horse engine (?)	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the south of the enclosure of Coedllwyndan Cottage (PRN 22621) is a roughly circular structure between 5-6m in diameter with stone work visible in the external face (plate 10). The structure is sunken in the centre and is turfed over. This may be the site of horse engine. This structure is currently in a stable condition, although the external edges are slightly eroded by animal tracks to the south east and by vehicle tracks to the north west.

Recommendations

Placing cut brash or gorse on the eroded areas around the external banks should stop sheep using the tracks giving the grass a chance to regenerate.

Site Category C



Plate 10 – a mound (possible site of a horse gin?) (PRN 44530) to the south of the settlement of Coedllwyndan.

PRN	22622	Site Name	Bwrgwm	Grid Reference	SN46263268
Site Type	Settlement	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Byrgwm is identified on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1907). There are four distinct structures indicated on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. However today the settlement of Byrgwm is largely ruinous. Currently there are the upstanding remains of the farmhouse (PRN 44531), pond (PRN 44533), wheel pit (PRN 44534) and pigsties (PRN 44532). However, there are the more vestigial remains of other structures still surviving such as a building platform (PRN 44535), other areas of level ground would indicate small enclosures and yards.

Recommendations

The surviving boundary banks and enclosures of Bwrgwm should be retained as visible landscape features.

Site Category C

PRN	44531	Site Name	Bwrgwm	Grid Reference	SN46253267
Site Type	Cottage	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The external walls of the farmhouse survive to a maximum height of approximately 3m at the west gable end (plate 11). The building is rectangular, orientated east to west and c. 7m long. It is constructed from rubble stone built to courses with large quoins. A brick built corner fireplace remains in the north west corner and a small fireplace with a wooden lintel survives at the east end. The remains of the building are threatened by tree fall, and currently a fallen tree lies across the upstanding masonry at the east end.

Recommendations

This building is currently threatened by tree fall. The remains of the fallen tree, which lies across the east end of the building, should be carefully removed. A scheme of woodland and vegetation management should be introduced which will help to prevent further tree fall from damaging the structure. Ideally the upstanding masonry of the structure should be consolidated.

Site Category C



Plate 11 – the remains of a house at Byrgwm (PRN 44531)

PRN	44532	Site Name	Bwrgwm	Grid Reference	SN46303266
Site Type	Pigsties	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A pair of pigsties are the most intact structures which survive at the deserted settlement of Byrgwm (plate 12). They are constructed out of rubble stone with quartz, roughly coursed, with brick dressings to the openings. Internally the pigsties are divided by large monolithic slabs of slate. The roof is pitched and covered with slate and the ridge tiles are stamped with the name W. Hancock. Some slates have come off the roof and the substantial holes are allowing water to penetrate the structure.

Recommendations

It is advisable that the roof is repaired as soon as possible and the structure made watertight.

Site Category



Plate 12 – the pigsties (PRN 44532) at the deserted settlement of Byrgwm.

PRN	44533	Site Name	Bwrgwm	Grid Reference	SN46223264
Site Type	Pond	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A pond is situated on the steep slope below the farmhouse. It has been constructed with stone and earth banks to the south west and is now encircled with mature trees. It is roughly 13m long and 5m wide. The pond is part of a water wheel complex and to the north west of the structure the line of a leat follows the contour of the slope round to the watercourse at the farm boundary (plate 13). The line of the leat appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. To the south east of the pond are the masonry remains of a stone sluice which fed the water wheel (PRN 44533). These features appear to be in a fairly stable state.

Recommendations

The pond and the associated sluice and leat are structures which are sensitive to any forms of disturbance. Currently they are in a fairly stable condition. However, the ash trees, which surround the pond, should be carefully managed to prevent tree fall which may damage the pond structure.

Site Category C



Plate 13 – the course of a leat can be seen in the foreground with the pond beyond (PRN 44533).

PRN	44534	Site Name	Bwrgwm	Grid Reference	SN46233263
Site Type	Wheel pit	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the south east of the pond is a stone lined wheel pit with the iron wheel gear still surviving (The gear wheel is stamped “William Isaac & Son Carmarthen”). The wheel pit is approximately a metre deep although considerably silted up at its base, however it survives in fairly good condition (plate 14). A mature tree is growing less than a metre from the north east side which may cause damage to the structure in the long term. To the south west of the wheel pit is a slight platform c 15m across however there are no upstanding remains which would indicate the presence of a structure in this position.

Recommendations

This structure survives in reasonable condition at present. However, the mature tree growing to the side of the wheel pit may need to be removed to prevent any damage to the masonry structure. The area surrounding the wheel pit may contain other features associated with the mill complex, therefore it is recommended that archaeological advice is sought prior to any works being carried out in this area.

Site Category C



Plate 14 – the stone lined wheel pit with wheel gear still *in situ* (PRN 44534).

PRN	44535	Site Name	Bwrgwm	Grid Reference	SN46263267
Site Type	Building Platform	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the east of the ruins of Byrgwm cottage is a level area of land with a small area of stonework at its north west corner. The raised bank to the north also has the remains of roof slates still *in situ* which indicate the position of a building roughly 12m long.

Recommendations

This area should be excluded from any ground breaking activities and the platform should be kept clear as a visible feature.

Site Category C

PRN	44536	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN46153282
Site Type	Dutch barn	Period	Modern		

Description

To the west of the farm track is a large round topped Dutch barn, with a corrugated iron roof. Large outshoots are situated to either side.

Recommendations

The Dutch barn is in good condition at present, this should be maintained.

Site Category C

SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

LB1, LB2* & LB2 – Listed Building 1, 2* & 2

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

HLW - Historic Landscapes of Wales

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

REFERENCES

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Written Description

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This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
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Position: Principal Archaeological Officer (Curatorial)

Signature Date.....

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on the content or presentation of this report