



Berlouwin W/12/1619

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Report



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Berlouwin W/12/1619 Tir Gofal Farm Visit 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

Berlouwin Farmstead (PRN 44548) consists of 3 separate land holdings. Two of the larger holdings were visited on this occasion; the holding around the farm of Berlouwin, and the holding at the deserted farm of Waun-lwyd.

The farmstead at Berlouwin consists of approximately 16.5 hectares. A field pattern of irregularly shaped fields is divided up by hedges some of which are built on substantial stone banks. The field pattern appears to have been established when the Tithe Survey of the parish of Cynwyl Elvet was recorded in 1840. At this time the farm was owned by a John Jones and occupied by David Morgan and included the dwelling of Llain-crug-yr-ast. A dwelling identified by the side of the road on the Tithe map is later identified on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps as Blaencwarau (PRN 44550). The site of a well (PRN 11689), known as Ffos-ana and highly regarded for it's healing properties, has been recorded (Jones, 1992. p168). A footpath is also identified on the historic maps which leads past the site of the well and continues down to the historic farm of Ffos-Sana. The remains of a quarry (PRN 44549) which probably provided the building stone for the farm of Ffos-Sana is also clearly visible.

Prehistoric activity is well represented on the higher ground of all of the land holdings, and includes three round barrows, one on each of the separate holdings. In addition an enclosure (PRN 14387) has also been identified from aerial photographs adjacent to Crugygorllwyn round barrow.

The holding around the deserted farm of Waun-lwyd, is approximately 15.5 hectares. The field boundaries are mostly large stone built banks and topped with overgrown hedgerows. The track which leads to the cottage of the Waun-lwyd is lined with enormous stone banks and the remains of enclosures around the dwelling still survive as boundary banks.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PRN 11689 Ffos Sana Healing Well

Although the well is no longer visible there may be buried remains surviving. In order to protect potential archaeological deposits, no ground intrusive activities should take place within this area. It is therefore recommended that the animal feeder and muckheap are relocated away from the site.

PRN 44552 Waun-lwyd Cottage

The south west gable end currently presents a safety issue, as the chimney is in a perilous condition and is causing Ms Wyllee some concern. Unless funding is available to consolidate the gable end, there may be no alternative than to dismantle the chimney and gable top to a secure level. An archaeological record should be made of the affected area prior to this work being undertaken.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN

2275

Site

Crugiau

Grid

SN3267636121

Site Type

Round Barrow

Name Period Moelvre Bronze Age Reference Site status

SAM

Description

This round barrow is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cm107). This site was not visited on this occasion.

Recommendations

This site has been visited by the Cadw Field Monument Warden, please refer to the management recommendations supplied by Cadw.

Site Category A

PRN

2293

Site

Crug y

Grid Reference SN32183408

Site Type

Round Barrow

Name Period Gorllwyn Bronze Age

Site status

SAM

Description

This round barrow is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cm108). This site was not visited on this occasion.

Recommendations

This site has been visited by the Cadw Field Monument Warden, please refer to the management recommendations supplied by Cadw.

Site Category Α **PRN**

2310

Site

Crug yr Ast

Grid Reference SN35963197

Name

Site Type

Round Barrow

Period

Bronze Age

Description

This barrow was recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1977 as a ground swelling 0.3m high and 28m in diameter. This round barrow has been visited previously as part of the Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Practice Survey funded by Cadw. No remains of this site were visible at that time. However, it is possible that there are buried archaeological remains surviving in this area

Recommendations

To protect the buried archaeological remains there should be no ploughing or other ground intrusive activities within 15 metres of this site.

Site Category D

PRN

11689

Site

Ffos Sana

Grid Reference SN358323

Site Type

Healing Well

Name Period

Medieval

Description

The position of this well is documented on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1907. It was said to be a healing well and the site was reputed to have a circle of stones around it, (Jones, 1992, pp 16, 101, 168). However the well is no longer visible and there is no further record of the stone circle. The site is currently used as an area for feeding animals and has a muckheap nearby. Ms Wyllee has identified a large undressed stone in the adjoining boundary bank which she believes may have originally come from the well.

Recommendations

Although the well is no longer visible there may be buried remains surviving. In order to protect potential archaeological deposits, no ground intrusive activities should take place within this area. It is therefore recommended that the animal feeder and muckheap are relocated away from the site.

Site Category D

Grid Reference SN32183408 Crug y Site 14387 **PRN** Gorllwyn Name Unknown Period Enclosure Site Type

Description

An enclosure, partially obscured by the reservoir and radar station, has been identified from aerial photographs. The enclosure appears to be a circular ditch with two parallel linear ditches radiating from the north west side. This site was not visited on this occasion.

Recommendations

There is a potential for buried archaeological remains to survive here, therefore the area indicated on the attached map should not be subjected to any intrusive activity, such as ploughing, or heavy erosion through feeding livestock.

Site Category D PRN

44549

Site

Grid Reference SN35803232

Name

Site Type

Quarry

Period

Post Medieval

Description

This quarry is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. It survives as a cutting in the natural valley slope down to the watercourse. It is currently clearly visible with some trees and brambles growing on the quarried slopes (plate 1).

Recommendations

The quarry should continue to be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category C

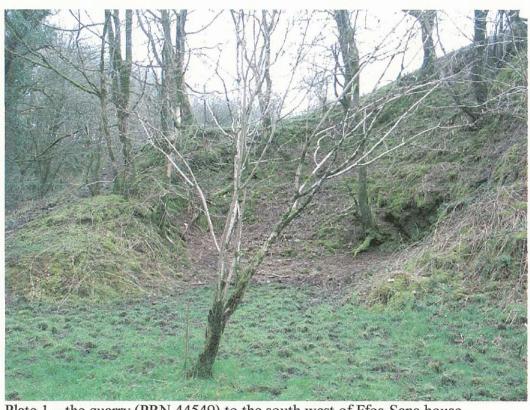


Plate 1 – the quarry (PRN 44549) to the south west of Ffos-Sana house.

PRN

44550

Site

Blaen cwarau

Grid Reference SN35663219

Name

Site Type Cottage Period

Post Medieval

Description

This cottage is identified on the parish Tithe map of Cynwyl in Elvet of 1840 and continues to be recorded on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907. There is no longer any visible trace of the building. The owner records that when she moved here, some 15 years ago, there was a large quarry to the north west of the supposed site of the cottage and a large quantity of loose stone scattered in this area. This stone work has since been incorporated into a new barn which has been constructed near the site. The current house of Berlouwin is situated within the gardens of this dwelling.

Recommendations

Although the remains of this dwelling are no longer visible, there may be related archaeological deposits surviving below ground surface. Therefore it is recommended that any further groundworks in this area are carried out with archaeological supervision.

Site Category D

PRN

44551

Site

Grid Reference SN32853591

Name

Site Type

Quarry

Period Post Medieval

Description

The remains of a small quarry survive to the north of the track leading to Waun-lwyd.

Recommendations

The quarry should continue to be maintained as a visible feature.

Site Category C

PRN 44552 Site Waun lwyd Grid Reference SN32823589

Name

Site Type Cottage Period Post Medieval

Description

The cottage of Waun-lwyd is identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. According to Ms Wyllee it has been empty for some 40 years and is now largely ruinous. The building is positioned on a south west to north east axis with the front facing south east (plate 2, page 11). The cottage is constructed out of uncoursed, rough slate and bonded with a lime mortar. The roof appears to have latterly been covered by corrugated iron indicated by the sheeting which lies strewn about.

The remains of the cottage now consist largely of the two gable walls. At the south west end a brick chimney survives, although it has a severe outward lean and the gable will fall before long. Internally at the south west end is a small gable fireplace with a flat stone arch. The cast iron fireplace survives partly *in situ* although the top half has come adrift and lies within the masonry rubble. The gable end has traces of a lime render finish and the sockets for the ceiling joists at eaves level can clearly be seen.

The south east facing elevation has largely collapsed, although there are remains of a window splay and a central doorway. The outline of a wide tapered flue is still visible at the north east gable end although the chimney and wall tops have been lost.

Against the north east gable end are the wall stubs of an outhouse or outshoot, butting up to the gable end.

Recommendations

The south west gable end currently presents a safety issue, as the chimney is in a perilous condition and is causing Ms Wyllee some concern. Unless funding is available to consolidate the gable end, there may be no alternative than to dismantle the chimney and gable top to a secure level. An archaeological record should be made of the affected area prior to this work being undertaken.

Site Category



Plate 2 – the derelict cottage of Waun-lwyd (PRN 44552).

PRN 44553 Site Grid Reference SN32853590

Name

Site Type Track Period Post Medieval

Description

To the south east of the derelict farm of Waun-lwyd, is a track lined with substantial stone banks approximately 1.6 metres high and 1.2 metres wide, constructed with vertically laid slate to the north west and horizontally laid to the south east (plate 3). The track leads from the road to the east of the enclosure of Waun-lwyd. To the east of the farmhouse, where the track turns a corner to the north west the southern bank has sustained some damage from vehicles.

Recommendations

The track and associated banks should be repaired and maintained using traditional materials. Due to the sharp angle of the trackway the track provides only limited access and is therefore not suitable for use by large vehicles.

Site Category C



Plate 3 – the trackway which leads to Waun-lwyd (PRN 44553).

SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY

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.

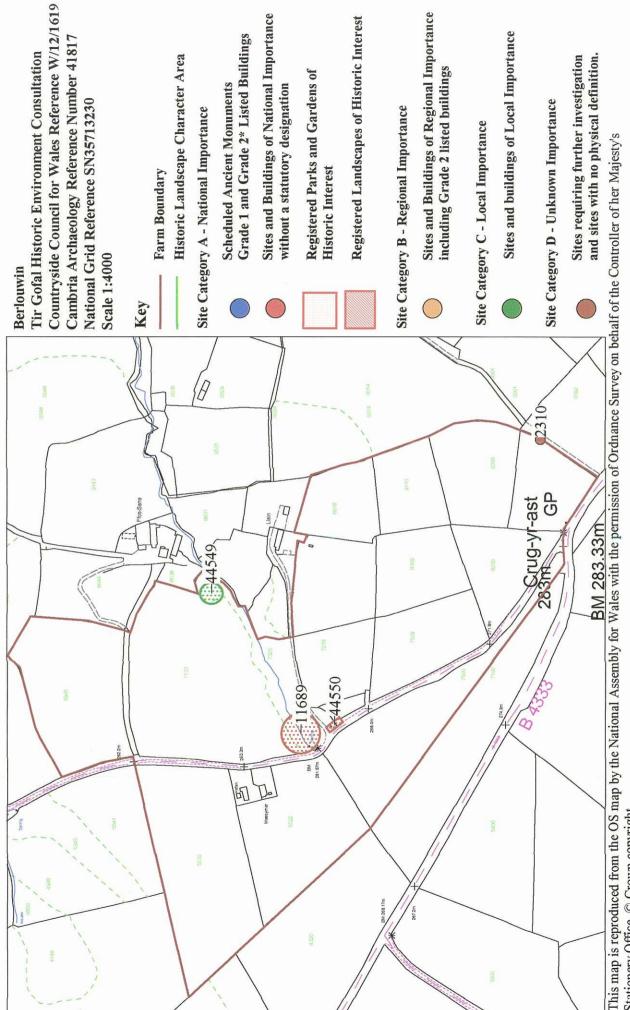
REFERENCES

Maps

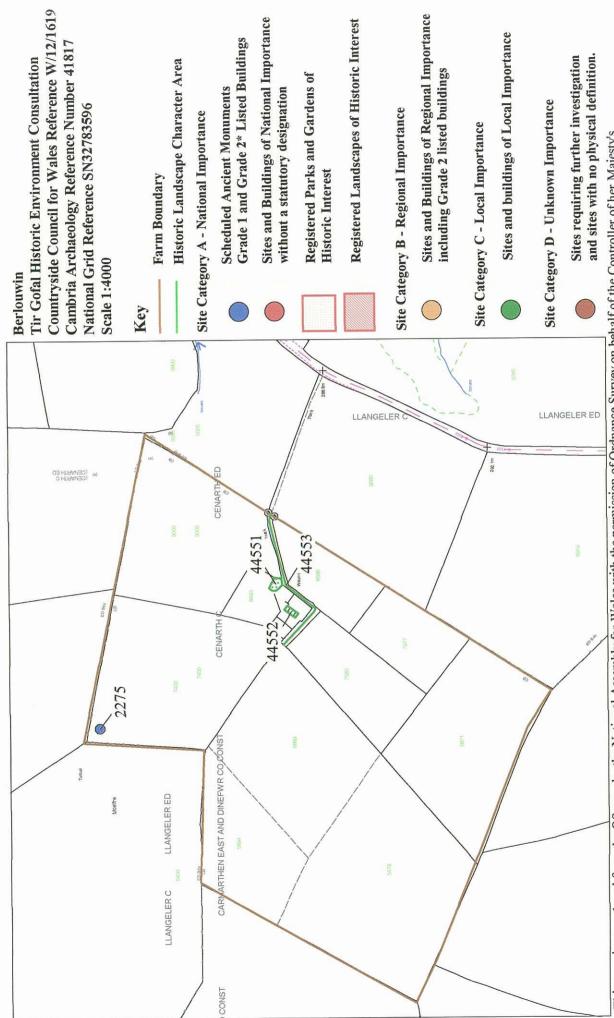
Ordnance Survey, 1891, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXII.NE Ordnance Survey, 1907, Carmarthenshire Sheet XXII.NE Tithe Map and Apportionment of the Parish of Cynwyl in Elvet, 1840

Written Description

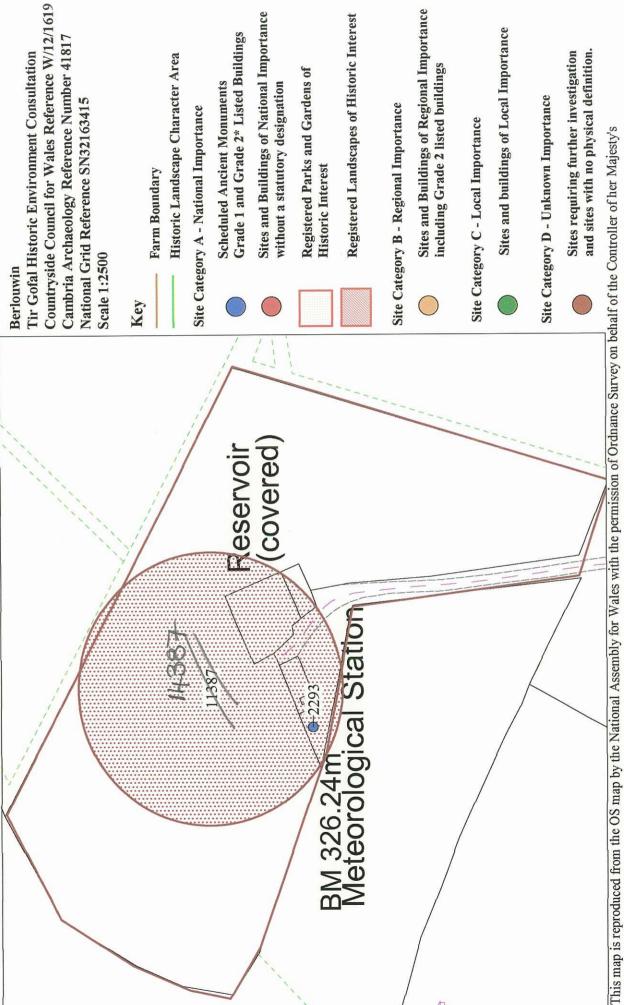
Jones, F, 1992, The Holy Wells of Wales Lewis, S, 1833, Topographical Dictionary of Wales Ordnance Survey Record Card, 1977, SN 33 NE 7, PRN 2310



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