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Pantau E/10/3201

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Pantau
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By
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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Method Statement	3
General Description of farm	4
Main Management Recommendations	4
Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments	6
Site and Area Status Glossary	13
References	13
Farm Map	14
Quality Assurance Report	15

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 System 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 time constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. Some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

The farm holding of Pantau, (Prn 45027) is situated on the southeast side of the River Towy, 1 kilometre to the east of Llandeilo. It occupies a prominent position on a hill reaching 110 metres in height, overlooking the Towy valley. It is located within the community of Cyngor Bro Dyffryn Cennen and is centred on the grid reference SN 64572273.

The farm holding of Pantau does not have any buildings or farmstead to speak of and is now farmed remotely. The holding formed part of the estate of Ty Gwyn and is first recorded on a map of 1749. This map shows the west side of the hill was divided up into irregular fields, and notably an almost circular wood is shown on the highest point of the holding. This feature may appear to survive in a diminished form as 'The Grove' (Prn 14007), although the tithe survey of 1838 does not show any woodland on the holding at all. The 1838 tithe map also indicates that the holding was further enclosed to the east side of the hill forming a pattern of irregularly shaped fields.

A significant change in the landscape pattern is attested in the middle of the 19th century when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 shows all the field boundaries have been removed. In place of the field boundaries dispersed alignments of mature trees are indicated. Some isolated specimen trees are also shown, although these also appear, in most cases, to have been selected from pre-existing boundaries recorded on the tithe map. 'The Grove' is also shown as a distinctive oval enclosure with a mixture of conifer and deciduous trees. It appears that in the last half of the 19th century the holding was amalgamated into one large tract of land and that a parkland feel was generated by the selecting of trees from the existing field boundaries. Much of this 19th century landscaping can still be seen today.

According to Kelly's Directory of Monmouthshire and South Wales, a nine hole golf course was laid out in 1909, which was said to support 100 members (1926, p520). This golf course has also left a visible imprint on the landscape in the form of levelled areas (Prn 45021).

The holding falls within the Towy Valley landscape characterisation project which identifies areas of distinctive historic character, and Pantau lies within the Bethlehem historic character area. This character area is identified for its pasture interspersed with small woods and parkland planting, a result of the numerous gentry houses which litter the Towy valley.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The main issue concerning the farm holding is maintaining the characteristic parkland landscape which appears to have been established in the last half of the 19th century. Proposals for tree planting through the scheme present an opportunity to maintain and enhance the parkland character as long as the original character of planting, in dispersed drifts and rough alignments, is respected. A copy of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map which shows the planting in some detail has been provided for guidance. The existing species composition should be reflected in the new planting.

'The Grove', which is situated on the highest point of the holding, is quite a local focal point, visible across the valley and in most directions. At present it is rather choked with many coniferous trees and would benefit from some thinning to allow some individual trees to mature. This will ensure that this characteristic spinney is enhanced and is not diminished from the skyline

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	14007	Site Name	THE GROVE	Grid Reference	SN64782270
Site Type	ENCLOSURE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The grove is obviously much diminished from the more extensive area of woodland indicated on the 1749 map (John Butcher) and appears to have been managed to achieve a classic parkland spinney of deciduous and conifer trees by the late 19th century. The deciduous trees represented within the enclosure include beech and hornbeam. The oval enclosure, which probably dates from this period, is defined by an earth bank 1 metre high and 2 metres wide.

Recommendations

This area is now becoming rather choked with immature coniferous trees and would benefit from some degree of thinning. If any works are to be carried out in this area, care should be taken not to damage the enclosure bank which lies some distance within the now enlarged area of planting.

Site Category B



Prn 14007 – 'The Grove' is an enclosure of deciduous and conifer trees which occupies a prominent position on the highest point of the holding.

PRN 18807 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN64382241

Site Type QUARRY **Period** Post
Medieval

Description

The quarry was first recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 and appears again, slightly enlarged, marked 'Quarry' on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907.

The quarry survives today as a linear cut on a northeast axis into the hillside. At the northeastern end the quarry face and the strike of the rock are still visible, although it is becoming quite overgrown with mature trees. There has also been some dumping of garden waste.

Recommendations

The quarry should be maintained as a visible historic feature and cleared of debris.

Site Category C



Prn 18807 – this quarry was first recorded on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891.

PRN 45020 **Site Name** PANTAU **Grid Reference** SN64572273

Site Type PARK **Period** Post
Medieval

Description

The characteristic parkland landscape at Pantau appears to have been established in the last half of the 19th century. The parkland was probably created by removing existing field boundaries, whilst selectively retaining existing trees and allowing them to grow into mature parkland specimens, so distinctive of this type of land use. Hence the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 indicates the position of parkland trees which appear to correspond to the alignments of the preceding field pattern.

Recommendations

It has been suggested that a programme of tree planting is carried out through the scheme and it is recommended therefore, that the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map should provide a guideline on which to base any future planting schemes and that new planting should broadly correspond with the alignments and groupings indicated on this document. The existing species composition should also be replicated in any new planting.

Site Category B



Prn 45020 – the parkland at Pantau appears to be partially created from relic field boundaries.

Corrupt
Record 1

PRN 45021 **Site Name** PANTAU **Grid Reference** SN64572273

Site Type GOLF COURSE **Period** Modern

Description

The golf course, established in 1909, is a major feature which has also left an imprint on the landscape of Pantau. The parkland has been influenced by various areas of levelling to create greens or tees.

Although the landscaping is largely in a stable condition at present a sheep feeder is causing some erosion at grid ref: SN 64572257.

Recommendations

Areas of landscaping should be avoided for feeding livestock and should not be subject to any ground intrusive activities.

Site Category B



Prn 45021 - the landscape at Pantau is peppered with landscaping for the golf course which was established in 1909.

PRN 45023 **Site Name** PANTAU **Grid Reference** SN64192252

Site Type CLUBHOUSE **Period** Modern

Description

A clubhouse associated with the golf course was situated in the western corner of the land holding, close to the current entrance. There are no upstanding remains of the golf clubhouse, although some foundations can be seen in places at turf level. The services and footprint of the building undoubtedly survive just below the ground surface.

Recommendations

It has been suggested that a new agricultural building is sited in this position. In order to preserve the historic remains which are located here the surviving archaeology must be given due consideration in advance. It is suggested that there are two options; either the building is not sited on the foundations of the old clubhouse and is positioned elsewhere within the enclosure at the west corner of the field. Alternatively it may be possible to overlay the foundations of the clubhouse with a membrane and hardcore to preserve the old foundations *in situ*. This would undoubtedly reduce the archaeological impact. However, an archaeological watching brief would still be necessary during site clearance and the laying of services.

Site Category B



Prn 45023 – the golf clubhouse used to occupy this site, the foundations can still be traced at ground level.

PRN 45025 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN64242257

Site Type POND **Period** Modern

Description

It is recorded that a water mill was located at Maesgwyn in the medieval period and it is possible that these ponds may relate to water management for this structure. However, no ponds are shown on any of the historic mapping up to the beginning of the 20th century, which suggests that either they had not yet been created or that they had silted up to such an extent that they were not recorded.

Recommendations

If any works are to be carried out on the ponds, please contact Cambria Archaeology in advance.

Site Category C

PRN	45026	Site Name	HEOL RHOGED; TY'R HOEL	Grid Reference	SN64742249
Site Type	ENCLOSURE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A triangular enclosure is recorded on the tithe map of Llandeilo-fawr in 1838, which appears to be associated with the cottage which was situated on the south side of the road. The eastern boundary is all that is recorded on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps and this appears to survive as a very slight earthwork bank. There is currently a water trough sited against this relic boundary.

Recommendations

Although the water trough does not appear to be causing significant damage, ideally it should be relocated away from this area.

Site Category D



Prn 45026 – the slight earthwork bank is the remains of an enclosure associated with a cottage on the other side of the road.

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.

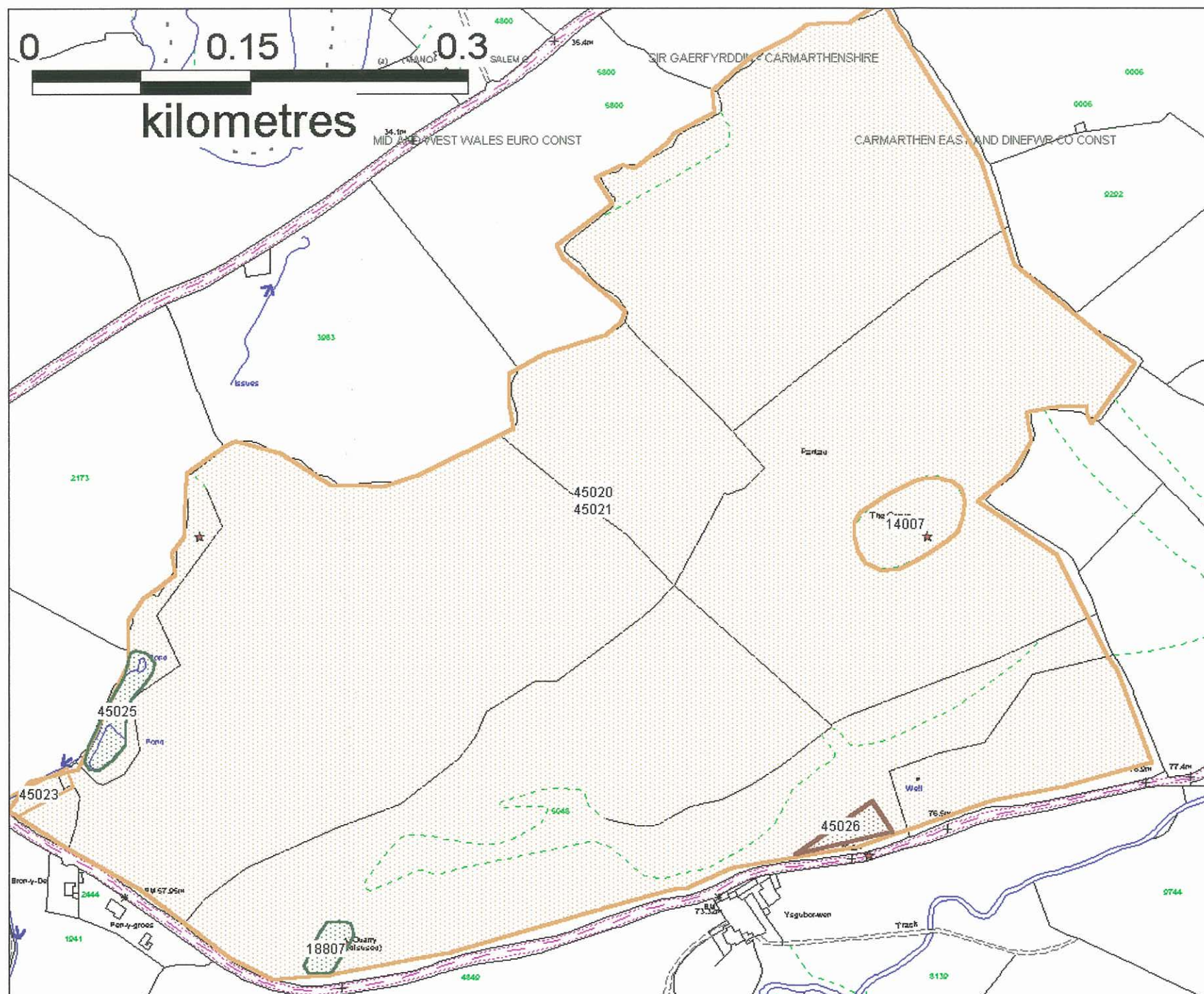
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National Grid Reference SN 64562273

Key

- Farm Boundary
- Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings
- Sites and Buildings of National
Importance without a statutory
designation
- Registered Parks and Gardens of
Historic Interest
- Registered Landscapes of Historic
Interest

Site Category B - Regional Importance

- Sites and Buildings of Regional
Importance including Grade 2
listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

- Sites and buildings of Local
Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

- Sites requiring further investigation
and sites with no physical definition.

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