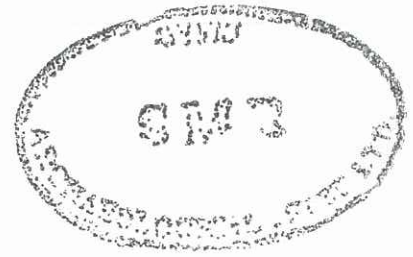


SEPT 2003



Hafod E/10/2926

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



The view northeast from the highest point on the farm, an earthwork enclosure is visible in the middle distance (Prn 14384).

Report No. 2002/84

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/84
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44102

Hafod
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By
Alice Pyper

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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 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 (Prn 45758)

Hafod is situated within the community of Cyngor Bro Dyffryn Cennen on the northeast – southwest ridge along the southeast side of the Afon Twyi, grid reference SN66322116.

The main holding which is centred on the farmstead of Hafod is located on the northwest facing slopes below and including the ridge. Two further small parcels of land are situated to the south of Ffairfach at SN 62611977 and SN62711935.

The main land holding lies within the Historic Landscape Character areas of Trichrug (231) and Allt Tregryb (203). These areas have been defined and mapped by studying distinctive historic landscape components which contribute to give various regions their individual character (Murphy and Ludlow, 2000). In the lower reaches of the farm the fields are medium sized and irregularly shaped bounded by hedgebanks. Field size becomes larger towards the ridge with boundary walls dividing the high ground.

With the exception of the removal of one or two field boundaries and the opening up of some fields, the field pattern appears largely unchanged since the tithe map was surveyed in 1841. The tithe map shows that the highest point of land was unenclosed and this remained the case into the 20th century.

The farmstead was served by two trackways, one from the ridge which is still in use, and a second, which has fallen out of use, which leads out of the farmstead to the southeast. The farmstead (Prn 48678) consists of the new farmhouse (Prn 48678) to the southeast and a long range of farm buildings to the northwest, beyond which are further modern sheds.

The main area of archaeological interest lies on the high ground along the crest of the ridge, where it appears there are a number of prehistoric features including; the Iron Age enclosure (Prn 14384), possible round barrows (Prns 45759 and 45760) and a ring cairn (Prn 45761). This is a highly sensitive archaeological area and further survey may uncover more features.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The high ground along the ridge is of high archaeological importance and careful management must be exercised to ensure that the archaeological deposits remain undisturbed. The proposed repair and restoration of the stone boundary bank which defines the farms' southeastern limit is a worthwhile project. There are a number of archaeological features in close proximity to the wall (Enclosure, Prn 14384; possible round barrows Prns 45759, 45760 and cairn 45761), and care must be taken to avoid taking vehicles across these sites during the restoration work. With regard to the sourcing of replacement stone, it is suggested that the stone which has been recently dumped in the quarry (Prn 45762) should be used – presumably the result of previous clearance episodes. Stone should not be taken from the field surface, as it is possible that the stone here relates to other archaeological features. No ground intrusive activities should take place within this archaeologically sensitive area and the feeding of livestock should not be carried out within 10

metres of the sites identified. The current management regime of permanent grazing appears to present no threat to the archaeology here as long as stock levels remain low.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 14384 Site Name Grid Reference SN66362085

Site Type ENCLOSURE Period Late Bronze
 Age; Iron Age;
 Romano British

Description

An oval enclosure is visible as an earthwork defined by an internal bank and external ditch. It is approximately 1 hectare in area and 150 metres from southwest to northeast, and 90 metres at its widest from northwest to southeast. The bank is between 0.1 and 0.2 metre high and the ditch is c. 0.2 metre deep. Aerial photographs show two breaks in the bank and ditch to the northeast which may indicate possible entrances. During the farm visit no hut platforms could be identified on the ground, however aerial photographs indicate at least a couple of possible platforms.

The enclosure is of unknown date and purpose, and only further study and excavation would clarify its age and function. Little excavation has been carried out on similar sites in this region, but examples of enclosures elsewhere have been dated to the late prehistoric/Romano British period and are thought to be settlements or farmsteads.

Recommendations

The site of this enclosure is currently under permanent pasture, this is an ideal landuse for this kind of site. There are undoubtedly very sensitive archaeological remains surviving below ground and the earthwork remains are also very vulnerable to ground disturbance. Therefore no ground disturbing activities should take place in this area and no livestock feeders should be located within 10 metres of this site. Care should also be taken to prevent poaching of the ground surface by livestock, which may occur in wet conditions.

Site Category A



Prn 14384 – a prehistoric enclosure is clearly defined by a bank and external ditch

Site Type	HAFOD?	Period	Medieval; Post Medieval
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The hafod place-name derives from the medieval and early post medieval agricultural system whereby the best farmland in lowland areas and river valleys was occupied in the winter, the family living in the Hendre and the cattle grazing the land around it. During the summer months the cattle were moved to the upland to graze while the lowland was used for arable. Some members of the family would go and live in Hafodtai to tend the stock. When this tradition came to an end some of these summer dwellings were established as permanent residences.

Recommendations

Site Category D

PRN 45759 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66532088

Site Type **ROUND** **Period** **Bronze Age?**
BARROW?

Description

A circular mound approximately 4 metres in diameter and 0.25 metre in height. The mound is entirely turf covered, and currently in a stable condition.

It is possible that this mound is a bronze age round barrow (an artificial mound of earth, turf and/or stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials). It appears that there is a grouping of these features (Prn 45760) on the high ground, a classic siting for monuments of this kind. Aerial photographs indicate that in addition to the possible round barrows identified within the farm holding there appears to be an alignment of barrows which lie to the southwest of the farm boundary.

Recommendations

This possible round barrow is currently under pasture. This is the ideal landuse for this kind of feature which is extremely vulnerable to ground disturbing activities. Archaeological deposits of an extremely sensitive nature may survive below the ground surface and care should be taken that no activities take place in this area which may damage the ground profile, this includes feeding livestock.

Site Category D



Prn 45759 – a possible round barrow situated on the high ground

PRN 45760 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66592089

Site Type **ROUND** **Period** **Bronze Age**
BARROW?

Description

A turf covered mound approximately 3.5 to 4 metres in diameter and 0.15 metre high is situated only a couple of metres to the northwest of the boundary wall.

It is possible that this mound is a bronze age round barrow (an artificial mound of earth, turf and/or stone, normally constructed to contain or conceal burials). It appears that there is a grouping of these features (Prn 45759) on the high ground, a classic siting for monuments of this kind. Aerial photographs indicate that in addition to the possible round barrows identified within the farm holding there appears to be an alignment of barrows which lie to the southwest of the farm boundary.

Recommendations

This possible round barrow is currently under pasture. This is the ideal landuse for this kind of feature which is extremely vulnerable to ground disturbing activities. Archaeological deposits of an extremely sensitive nature will survive and care should be taken that no activities take place in this area which may damage the ground profile, this includes feeding livestock.

Site Category D



Prn 45760 – the remains of a possible round barrow?

PRN 45761 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66672093

Site Type RING CAIRN? **Period** Bronze Age

Description

Positioned on a northeast facing slope, where the height of the ridge begins to fall, is a circular structure approximately 14-15 metres in diameter defined by a bank of stone which, at its greatest to the east, reaches 0.30 metre high. It is possible that some of the stonework to the exterior of the bank is faced stone creating a kerb. The interior of the feature at the time of the site visit was rather overgrown, but appeared to be a level surface.

The form of this feature, its siting and context suggest that it could be a ring cairn. This type of feature which dates from the early to middle bronze age, is commonly found on hill-slopes, or on a high moorland plateau set in natural saddles or around the head of a stream. They are also often found within round barrow cemeteries. It is unknown what their function was but they are generally thought to be associated with burial rites since cremations have been discovered within excavated examples.

This type of feature is difficult to positively identify and further fieldwork and ground survey is required to confirm this interpretation.

Recommendations

This feature is likely to have very sensitive archaeological deposits surviving below ground level. In order to protect the underlying deposits no ground intrusive activities should take place with 10 metres of the site.

Site Category D



Prn 45761 – a possible ring cairn, situated to the north of a barrow alignment

PRN 45762 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66202072

Site Type QUARRY **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

To the southwest of the farm holding, situated along the south side of the natural ridgeline is a series of small scale quarry workings, and recent stone tips.

It is likely that these small scale quarries were opened in order to provide stone for the construction of the boundary wall to the south.

Recommendations

These quarries should be retained as an open visible historic landscape features. They should not be used for dumping waste material. It has been proposed that if further stone is required for the proposed restoration of the farm boundary wall, then the loose stone from these quarries should be used in preference to using stone from the field surface which may be associated with archaeological features.

Site Category C



Prn 45762 – the remains of a quarry, one of a number along the ridge, some of which have been filled with loose stone.

PRN 45763 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66212082

Site Type QUARRY **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

A small quarry is visible to the north of the natural ridgeline.

Recommendations

This quarry should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category C

PRN 45764 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66522096

Site Type QUARRY **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

A quarry is situated to the southwest of the road opposite the entrance to Hafod farm. It is likely that the stone was quarried in order to provide stone for the construction of the field boundaries.

Recommendations

This quarry should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category C

PRN 45765 **Site Name** HAFOD **Grid Reference** SN66532120

Site Type FARMHOUSE **Period** Post
Medieval

Description

The ruined remains of a farmhouse. The current farmhouse appears to have been built between at the turn of the 19-20th centuries, it does not appear in its current position on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890, but is located on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907. The remains of the former farmhouse are situated immediately to the northeast of the current farmhouse (PRN 48678). Part of the south and east wall survive and the interior plastering still adheres to the stone walls which stand to an approximate height of 1.3 metres. These sections of walls have now been incorporated into the walls of the kitchen garden, which is situated to the east of the old farmhouse.

Recommendations

The walls of the old farmhouse should be retained. There are likely to be other features and buried archaeology relating to the former farmhouse, therefore areas which have not been previously disturbed should remain undisturbed.

Site Category C



Prn 45765 – the remains of the old farmhouse at Hafod have been incorporated into the garden wall

PRN 45766 **Site Name** HAFOD **Grid Reference** SN66562119

Site Type WELL **Period**

Description

A well, marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890, can be found situated to the east of the farmstead (PRN 48679). The well is located within a stone wall which lines the south side of a trackway which leads into the farmyard from the east. The well is constructed with two upright stones to either side supporting a single stone slab which caps the structure. The stone wall which stands to a height of approximately 1.2 metre has a hazel coppice growing from the wall top.

Recommendations

The hazel coppice which is growing out of the masonry wall above the well, will potentially cause problems with the masonry and in the event of the tree falling will damage the structure. It is recommended that this coppice is cut back and the roots treated to prevent regrowth.

Site Category C



Prn 45766 – the well to the east of Hafod farmstead

PRN 45767 **Site Name** HAFOD **Grid Reference** SN66552119

Site Type CISTERN **Period** Modern

Description

A below ground water cistern is situated in the garden to the southeast of the farmstead. It is identifiable by the depression in the ground level approximately 2 metres square.

Recommendations

As this feature falls within the garden of the current farmhouse it is outside the remit of Tir Gofal, therefore no management recommendations apply.

Site Category C

PRN 45768 **Site Name** HAFOD **Grid Reference** SN66482120

Site Type CART SHED;
COW HOUSE;
STABLE **Period** Post
Medieval

Description

To the northwest of the farmstead is a two storey combination farm building range, situated on a northeast – southwest axis. The building is built into the natural slope so that the ground surface butts up to the first floor level on the south side of the building. On the ground floor the building appears to be divided into three separate elements, a cart house at the eastern end, a stable in the central section and a cow shed to the west.

The building is well constructed in uncoursed roughly squared stone, with substantial stone quoins and dressings around the openings. The cart shed and stable has a slate covered roof at a lower level than that over the cow shed which is covered in asbestos.

The upper floors are also divided into three sections, the western end appears to be primarily a hay and feed loft with a double width doorway to the south and a large loading door to the north. The eastern section has a row of harness hooks indicating its use as a tack room at an earlier stage.

To the west of the range is the remains of another building which once abutted the cow shed range. The walls of this building stand to almost first floor height.

Although the tithe map of Llandeilo Fawr Parish recorded in 1841 indicates two long ranges of buildings at Hafod they are orientated on a 90 degree axis to those which exist today. It seems likely however that the current farm buildings are part of those which are recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890, which indicates an L-shaped range, of which the

southeastern section could survive. This range is a fine example of a well constructed combination farm building and is well preserved.

Recommendations

The combination farm building is in a good condition, and part of the roof has been re-slatted within the last 5 years. The farm building should continue to be maintained in a sound condition, with any repairs carried out using appropriate traditional building materials.

Site Category B



Prn 45768 – east end of the range of combination farm building, the cart shed at the far end and the stable to the right.



Prn 45768 – the west end of the combination farm building includes the cow shed, with central feed passage with manure passages to either side.

PRN 45769 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN66352109

Site Type ENCLOSURE? **Period** Unknown

Description

Aerial photographs suggest a possible rectangular enclosure in this area, although there is no evidence at ground level. Buried archaeological remains may however still be present.

Recommendations

This area should be left undisturbed.

Site Category D

PRN 45770 **Site Name** HAFOD **Grid Reference** SN66512098

Site Type CHURN STAND **Period** Modern

Description

A rubble stone built churn stand is situated on the south side of the road opposite the entrance to Hafod farm.

Recommendations

The churn stand should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category C

PRN 45771 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN62781935

Site Type ENCLOSURE **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

On the eastern edge of the fields and adjacent to the Ffairfach road are what appear to be relic boundaries which may be either sheep folds or may relate to a cottage site. Although no structures are identified on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 a series of small enclosures are indicated along the road side. These boundaries are no longer stock proof, however they survive as grown out hedgerows.

Recommendations

The relic boundaries should be retained. Ground intrusive activities should be avoided in this area.

Site Category C

PRN 48678 **Site Name** HAFOD **Grid Reference** SN66522119

Site Type FARMHOUSE **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

The current farmhouse appears to have been built at the turn of the 19th – 20th centuries, making its first appearance on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907. It appears to have superseded the earlier farmhouse (Prn 45765).

The current farmhouse is occupied by the land owners.

Recommendations

No management recommendations apply.

Site Category

Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval
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The farmstead consists of the current farmhouse (Prn 48678) to the southeast, adjacent to an earlier farmhouse (Prn 45765). Historically, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1890 records that the farmstead consisted of an L-shaped range of which the current farm building (Prn 45768) is part.

See individual records for specific management recommendations.

Site Category

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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Murphy, K and Ludlow, N. 2000. *Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation - Black Mountain And Mynydd Myddfai, Tywi Valley, Dolaucothi, Taf And Tywi Estuary Volume 1*
190 Llanfihangel Aberbythych
231 Trichrug
203 Allt Tregyb





Map sources

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Ordnance Survey 1890 Carmarthenshire sheet XLII.NW
Ordnance Survey 1890 Carmarthenshire sheet XLII.SW
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire sheet XLI.NE
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire sheet XXXIV.SW
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire sheet XLI.NE
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire sheet XLII.NW
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire sheet XXXIV.SW
Tithe Map and Apportionment for Llandeilo Fawr Parish 1841


Hafod
Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference E/10/2926
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN44102
National Grid Reference SN66322116
Map 1

 Farm Boundary
 Historic Landscape Character Area


Site Category A - National Importance

-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings
-  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

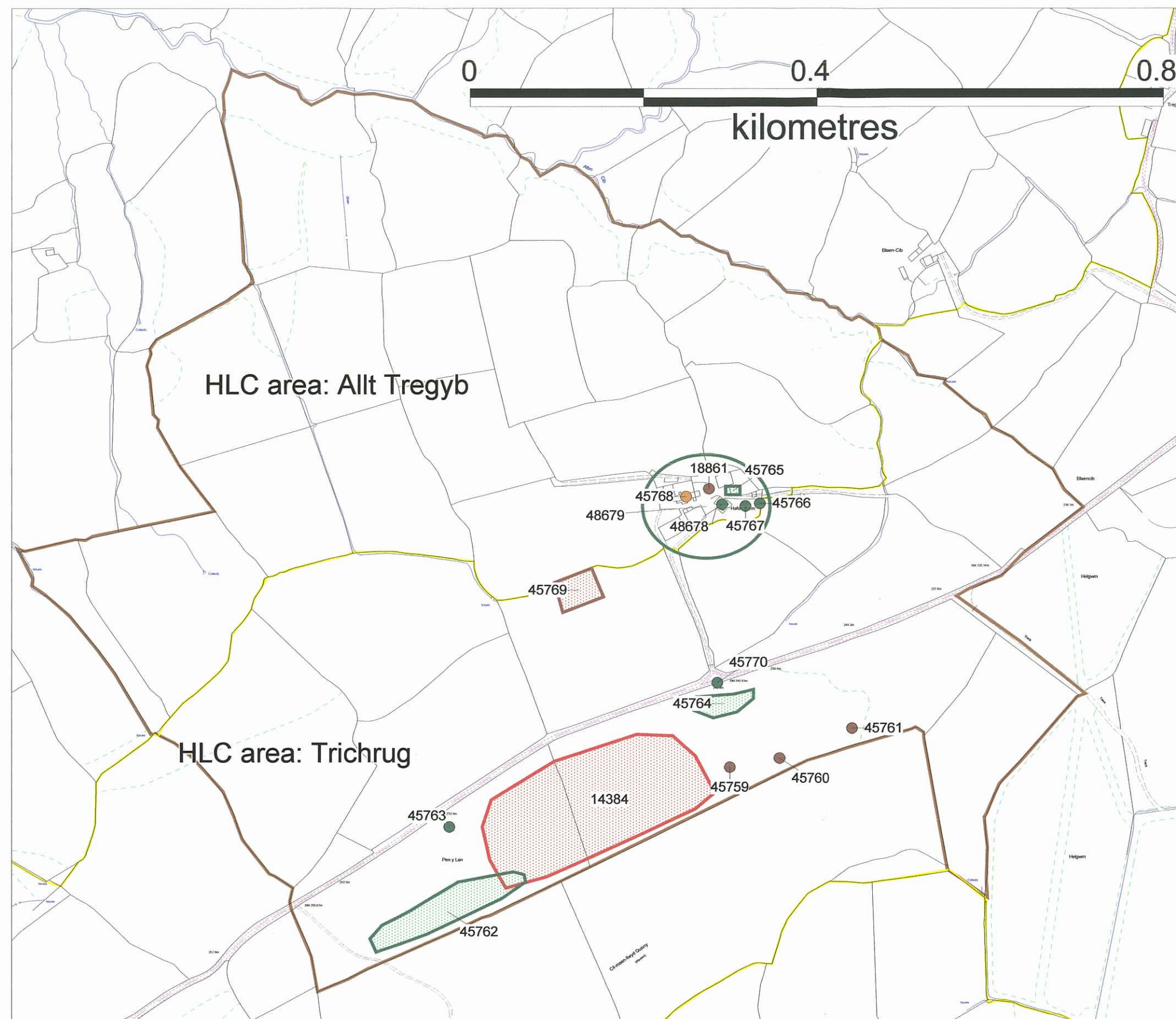
-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D – Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition


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Hafod


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference E/10/2926 b& c
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 44102
 National Grid Reference SN62611978; SN62721935
 Map 2

 Farm Boundary
 Historic Landscape Character Area

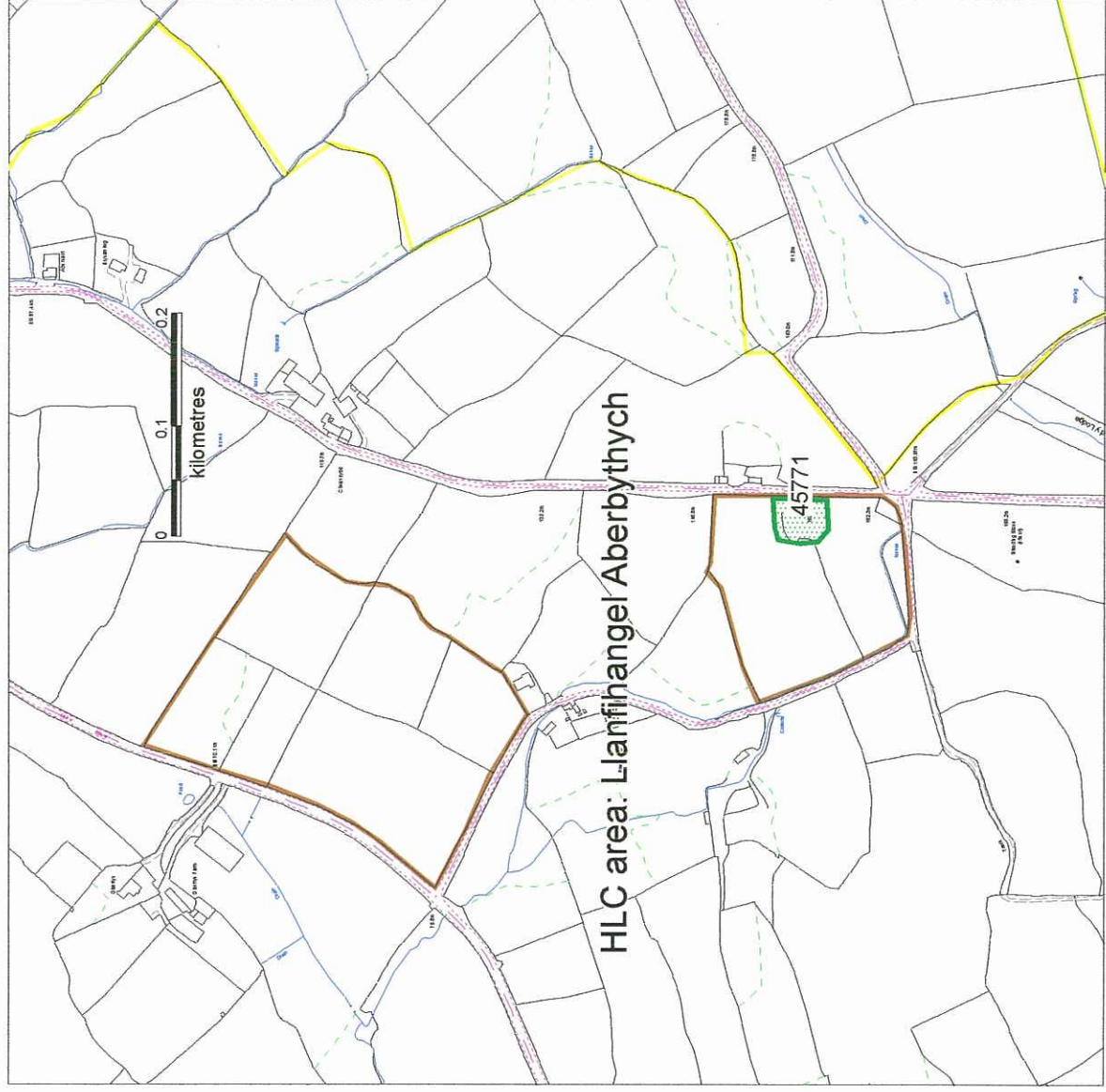
Site Category A - National Importance
 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings
 Sites and Buildings of National Importance without a statutory designation

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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Hafod E/10/2926

REPORT NUMBER 2002/84

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Signature Alice Pyper Date 24th Sept 2003

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Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 24/09/03

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