

Bee Hall Farm

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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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

Bee Hall Farm (PRN 45696) is situated just over a kilometre to the north east of Pembroke and consists of two holdings. The main farmstead is contained in a triangle of land with Deerpark Lane to the south, the A4075 to the north and Phillip's Lane to the east. A further strip of three fields also extends immediately to the east of Phillip's Lane.

The farmstead is recorded on the tithe maps and apportionment for the parishes of Nash and also Cosheston (both 1841), when the farm was owned by a Reverend Maud and tenanted by James Griffiths. The pattern of medium sized irregular fields appears to have changed little from this period, although the site of the "Cottage Garden" (PRN 45706) and surrounding fields to the north of Bee Hall farm which were tenanted by Jermyn Griffith in 1841 have largely disappeared. The cottage appears as a settlement with associated fields on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881, but the 2nd edition of 1909 shows it as an uninhabited dwelling with fewer surrounding fields due to the removal of hedgerows, however some earthworks and relic field boundaries associated with this site still survive (PRN 45704; PRN 45705; PRN 45706).

The current farmstead at Bee Hall farm consists of an 'L'-shaped arrangement of farmhouse (PRN 45697) with a attached range of cart shed, barn (PRN 45698), cowshed (PRN 45699), and pigsty (PRN 45700). Further to the north and east of this range are a largely ruinous stone cart shed (PRN 45701) and also a flat roofed modern breezeblock shed. To the east of the farmhouse there is a short length of stone wall forming part of the farmyard enclosure, and in its north face it contains three bee boles (PRN 45702), these are recesses in which in a bee skep/beehive is kept. This wall also forms part of a modern cow shed and there are further large modern agricultural sheds to the east of the main farm buildings creating an enclosed farmyard.

Both the farmhouse (PRN 45697) and barn (PRN 45698) appear on the tithe map and therefore were constructed prior to 1841, but by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1881) the space between the farmhouse and barn was infilled with the cart shed. The cow shed range (PRN 45699) was added to the north, and also the other cart shed (PRN 45701) was constructed.

The field boundaries are generally constructed with earth banks and outgrown hedgerows. These boundaries survive in various states of preservation and maturity, from overgrown hedgerows to trees that are reaching maturity and are no longer stock proof.

The name of the farm is probably derived from the fact that John Keyes, writer of the 'Beekeepers Last Farewell' (1796) an influential work on bee keeping, lived at the farm before retiring to Hertfordshire. The historical link of the farm to this book, and also the rare survival of the bee boles increases their significance tremendously.

A well (or spring feature) (PRN 45703) just to the north of the farmstead forms the head of a water course running to the north in the direction of Penny Bridge, past the site of the former cottage. When his family moved to the farm in 1956, the present farmer Mr. Skeels records this well as being a square cut cistern in the ground measuring around 0.75m wide and deep, with a corrugated zinc cover over its top. It is now however a wet, muddy depression.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PRN 45702 BEE BOLES

The three bee boles contained within a short stretch of stone wall at Bee Hall Farm are of great importance to the historic value of the farm but also on a wider regional and national level. Their survival is of great significance and the current owners concern to restore and preserve this feature is to be welcomed. The associated stub of masonry projecting from the wall also suggests that the bee boles were part of an altogether larger farm structure.

The bee boles and surrounding wall are in danger of becoming overgrown and the fabric of the structure may subsequently be damaged. The roof of the cowshed that rests on the wall top should be repaired and moved in order to cover the wall head, which should also be repaired and any loose masonry secured. Materials appropriate with the construction of the wall and bee boles should be used throughout. Consideration should also be made prior to any consolidation work as to whether to remove any repairs made in inappropriate materials or repairs around the bee boles which obscure the stonework.

Considering the rare survival of these structures and the possibility of associated features it is recommended that an archaeological record is made of the bee boles and surrounding wall prior to any consolidation works.

PRN 45703 WELL

The owners hope to reinstate this well feature and it is suggested that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during these works in order to identify any possible historic structures related to the well. This could also inform any decisions about the form and type of reconstruction of the well structure and could be carried out concurrently with the recording of the bee boles (PRN 45702).

PRN 45699 COWSHED; PRN 45700 PIGSTY; PRN 45701 CART SHED

All three of these structures are in danger of becoming overgrown with vegetation with subsequent damage to the fabric of each structure. In particular the cart shed has largely become ruinous and obscured from view by vegetation growth.

In all cases the vegetation should be removed and where necessary the roots treated. Following this any parts of the fabric damaged by the vegetation should be repaired using appropriate materials

PRN 45704 EARTHWORK; PRN 45705 PLATFORM; PRN 45706 COTTAGE

The complex of the cottage site, platform and earthwork to the north of Bee Hall Farm could contain buried archaeological deposits. Attention here should be paid to the potential damage from intrusive groundworks and livestock.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	45697	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00750179
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

East west orientated two storied gabled farmhouse with an attached cart shed wing to the north west forming an 'L'-shaped block. The house alone appears on the tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Cosheston (1841) but has been heavily modernised externally with pebble dashed walls, cement roof tiles, casement windows, and modern brick chimney stacks. The cart shed wing has been treated similarly but retains a brick arched cart opening in the east face, and externally accessed accommodation above which according to the owner Mr. Skeels was formerly the servants accommodation, (plate 1).

Attached to the north wall of the cart shed are two further buildings (barn PRN 45698; shed PRN 45699) and a semi derelict pigsty (PRN 45700).

Recommendations

The farmhouse is not included in the Tir Gofal management agreement as it is occupied as a dwelling, but is in good condition.

Site Category C



Plate 1 – Bee Hall Farmhouse and cart shed (PRN 45697)

PRN	45698	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00740180
Site Type	BARN	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A barn attached to the house and cart shed, appearing on the tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Cosheston (1841) and divided in two by a ridge height stone wall. The southern section (?threshing barn) is accessed by opposing doors in the east and west walls and internally by a doorway (now blocked) from the cart shed, and ventilated by two narrow slits beside each of the two opposed doorways. The roof to this section consists of two collared roof trusses supporting wooden pegged slates which have been covered in a sand and cement grout, (plate 2).

The northern section (?stables) is accessed through a central doorway in the east wall, the door is a half stable door with a hinged back, the room is lofted but no floor boards remain. There is also an opening above the doorway which is a probable pitching hole and a break in the floorboards presumably to provide ladder or hatch access between floors. This section is roofed with corrugated zinc sheet. There is also a doorway (now blocked) at first floor height in the north wall and two ventilation holes in the west wall, (plate 2).

Recommendations

The barn is in fair to good condition and should be maintained using appropriate materials. The grouted roof is an interesting and effective roofing method and should be maintained using appropriate methods and materials.

Site Category C



Plate 2 – barn and stables (PRN 45698)

PRN	45699	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00730181
Site Type	SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A low one storey cowshed range built against the north wall of the barn between 1841 and 1881, with four full height openings in the east wall, and covered by pegged roof trusses and corrugated asbestos sheet. The west external face and north end of this building have become heavily overgrown with ivy, (plate 3).

Recommendations

The cowshed is in fair to good condition and should be maintained using appropriate materials. The growth of ivy onto and over the roof is a potential cause for concern as the shed may easily become overgrown. The ivy and other vegetation should be removed and any damaged areas of masonry repaired using appropriate materials.

Site Category C



Plate 3 – cowshed (PRN 45699)

PRN	45700	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00730182
Site Type	PIGSTY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A small brick and stone pigsty at the north end of the cowshed, now partially collapsed with a large elder tree growing in its centre.

Recommendations

The pigsty is in poor to fair condition and in danger of becoming overgrown. Ideally the elder should be removed and the surrounding vegetation cut back, and at the same time securing any loose brickwork and stonework to prevent any further structural loss. The consolidation of this structure should be undertaken simultaneously with the vegetation clearance.

Site Category C

PRN	45701	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00730184
Site Type	SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A largely collapsed and overgrown stone constructed cart shed to the north of the main farm complex built between 1841 and 1881. Part of a stone wall is visible at its south end, however ivy and general vegetation growth obscure any other structural features.

Recommendations

The cart shed is in poor condition and in danger of becoming completely overgrown. Ideally the surrounding vegetation should be cut back, as well as securing any loose masonry to prevent any further structural loss.

Site Category C

PRN	45702	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00760180
Site Type	BEE BOLES	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A series of three bee boles constructed within the north face of a short stretch of east west aligned stone wall to the south east of the farmstead. This wall has been used to support the lean to roof of a (now unused) modern cow shed to the north and also forms part of the enclosure around the farmyard.

Each bee bole is approximately 0.3m deep and 0.35m square, built at the same height (c. 1.4m above ground level) and at about 0.45m apart. A stub of masonry projects from the wall immediately to the right (west) of the bee boles, although it was impossible to discern the exact function of this stub, it does suggest some form of structure adjacent to and connected to the bee boles, (plates 4, 5 & 6).

Recommendations

The bee boles and surrounding wall are in fair condition but are in danger of becoming overgrown with vegetation and the fabric of the structure may subsequently be damaged. The roof of the cow shed should be repaired and moved in order to cover the wall head, which should also be repaired and any loose masonry secured. Materials appropriate with the construction of the wall and bee boles should be used throughout. Consideration should also be made prior to any consolidation work as to whether to remove modern attempts at repair around the bee boles.

Considering the rare survival of these structures and the possibility of associated features it is recommended that an archaeological record is made of the bee boles and surrounding wall prior to any consolidation works

Site Category A



Plate 4 – bee boles (PRN 45702)



Plate 5 – bee bole (PRN 45702)



Plate 6 – rear of bee bole wall (PRN 45702)

PRN	45703	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00710183
Site Type	WELL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

According to the present farmer, Mr. Skeels, this was a square cut cistern with a corrugated zinc cover, located to the north west of the farmstead. The first recorded mention of a well in this area is on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881. It is now a wet, muddy depression. Some large stones can be seen around this well feature although it is believed that these are related to later stages of well capping rather than a previous structure, (plate 7).

Recommendations

Mr. Skeels proposes to reinstate this well/spring feature, it is therefore suggested that an archaeological watching brief is carried out during these works in order to identify any possible historic structures related to the well. This could also inform any decisions about the form and type of reconstruction of the well structure and could be carried out concurrently with the recording of the bee boles (PRN 45702).

Site Category C



Plate 7 – well (PRN 45703)

PRN	45704	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00620204
Site Type	EARTHWORK	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

An irregular earthwork enclosure situated alongside the remains of a relic field boundary bank associated with the cottage site (PRN 45706). It measures around 10m across with its surrounding banks standing between 0.5m and 1m high. It's interior is heavily poached and some attempt has been made at draining it. It is unknown what this enclosure is. It may relate to the cottage site PRN 45706, (plate 8).

Recommendations

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains surrounding this earthwork and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken in this area. It is also suffering from some livestock erosion. Stock levels should be reduced in this area and managed to avoid erosion especially when the ground surface is waterlogged.

Site Category C



Plate 8 – earthwork (PRN 45704)

PRN	45705	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00590203
Site Type	PLATFORM	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A platform measuring 8m north to south and 7m east to west and adjoining the relic field boundary bank mentioned above. It is identifiable as a roughly square level area, noticeable due to the different vegetation cover compared to the surrounding area.

Recommendations

Maintain as existing. In order to protect any possible buried archaeological remains this feature should not be disturbed in any way.

Site Category C

PRN	45706	Site Name	BEE HALL	Grid Reference	SN00500201
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Cottage site as identified on first and second edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1881 and 1909) and identified as a "Cottage Garden" on the Tithe Map of Cosheston Parish (1841). Due to extensive vegetation growth no direct earthwork evidence could be identified apart from a bank following the north side of the water course from Bee Hall Farm to Penny Bridge, (plate 9).

Recommendations

There is potential for surviving buried archaeological remains in this area and no intrusive groundworks should be undertaken. Due to the proximity of the water course the ground in this area is prone to water logging and therefore in increased danger from livestock erosion. Reduced stock levels will prevent erosion and damage of any buried archaeological remains. The vegetation in this area could also be cut back to prevent concentration of any damage by livestock.

Site Category C



Plate 9 – bank at site of cottage (PRN 45706)

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

Tithe map and Apportionment for the Parish of Nash (1841)

Tithe map and Apportionment for the Parish of Cosheston (1841)

1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1881, Pembs sheet XL.SW

2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1908, Pembs sheet XL.SW

2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1908, Pembs sheet XL.NW

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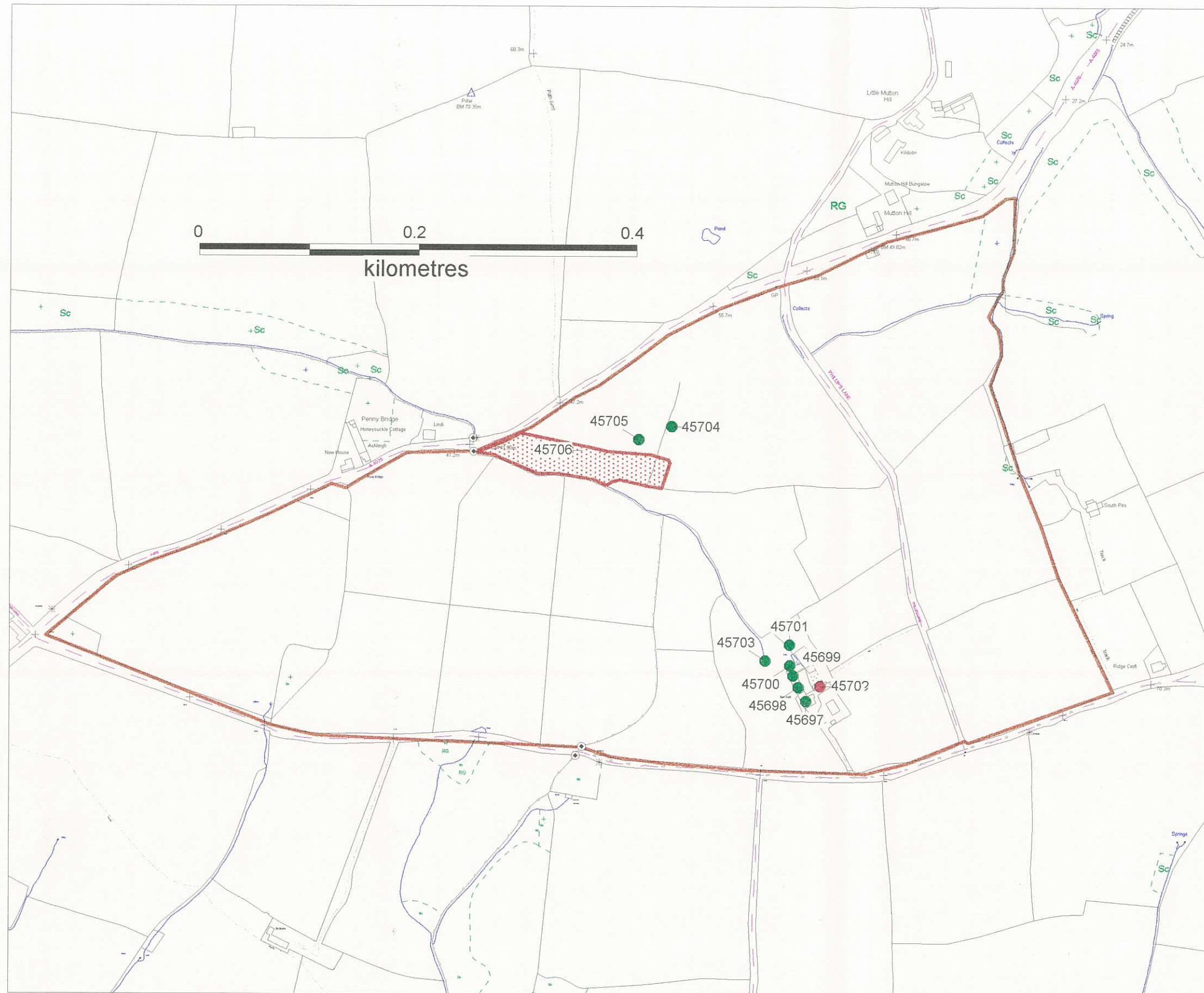
This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 16/09/02

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

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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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