

# **Rhiwgraidd W/11/3803**

## **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report**



**Gaer Fawr Hill Fort (PRN 1997) viewed from the east**

Report No. 2002/57

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/57  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44121

6<sup>th</sup> August 2002

**Rhiwgraidd**  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

Alice Pyper

*Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Epost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited  
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Fax: 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

*The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)*  
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

## **CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Method Statement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>General Description of farm</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Main Management Recommendations</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Site and Area Status Glossary</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Farm Map</b>	

## **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**

### **Rhiwgraidd Farmstead PRN 45008**

#### **Holding A**

The farmstead of Rhiwgraidd consists of two holdings, the larger of the two (Holding A) consists of 84 hectares of enclosed land which includes the impressive Iron Age hillfort of Gaer Fawr (PRN 1997). The holding lies either side of the A485 main road, but incorporates the large ridge which rises to the east of the road and on which the Gaer Fawr hill fort is situated.

The farmstead of Rhiwgraidd and the original nucleus of the holding, is situated to the north east of the crossroads on the south side of the ridge. However, it is now under separate ownership and no longer forms part of the holding. The farmstead is first recorded on the tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Rhosdie in 1841. The farm at this time formed part of the Earl of Lisburnes estate and was tenanted by Morgan Owen. At this time a field pattern of regular medium sized fields had been established, this element has largely been retained. However, many of the boundaries have been superseded by post and wire netting fencing and only some of the earlier earth banks topped with hedges survive; these are largely very grown out. At this time the small cottage site of Lluestmaen, still part of the Earl of Lisburnes estate, did not fall into the larger holding of Rhiwgraidd. This small holding was tenanted by David Edwards.

#### **Holding B**

The modern farmstead of Rhiwgraidd also consists of a smaller holding of 14 hectares which lies to the east of Ffair Rhos. This holding is an area of high ground, approximately 300 meters above Ordnance Datum and consists of rough, peaty land lying on a gentle west facing slope. This area did not appear to form part of an existing holding at the time of the tithe survey of 1846, and may historically have been common land for the village of Ffair Rhos. At the time of the tithe survey it is listed as pasture, owned by Jane Davis and grazed by John Jenkins.

The field pattern does not appear to have changed significantly since the tithe survey, although the boundaries themselves have been superseded with post and wire. The eastern boundary still survives as a stone bank with post and wire on top. To the north west of this holding is the Llwyn-llwyd Mine which was disused by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and footpaths are marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1906) which used to lead up to it. Along the southern boundary a small pocket of land was cut out of the field to provide a Sunday School built in the first years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The impressive hillfort of Gaer Fawr is recognised as a monument of national importance as denoted by its statutory designation. It could present a wonderful opportunity for establishing public access and interpretation.

The main holding of Rhiwgraidd would also benefit from the restoration of the historic field boundaries.

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

### **PRN 1997 GAER FAWR HILLFORT**

In the long term the best solution to prevent the active erosion on the ramparts would be to reduce the levels of stock grazing and sheltering on the hillfort. However, it is suggested in the short term that either netting or brash is securely weighted down within the scrapes to prevent sheep using these pockets for shelter, thus causing further erosion. This would allow the grass cover to regenerate.

### **PRN 5178 GAER FAWR STANDING STONE**

The area immediately surrounding this stone is suffering some erosion from sheep sheltering against it. This could be reduced by brash or netting being weighted down around the stone, preventing livestock getting to close to the stone and thereby allowing the grass cover to regenerate.

The stone should not be moved nor should anything be deposited on or against it. In order to protect against damage to any buried archaeology associated with the stone, no ground intrusive activity should take place within a 15 metre radius of the site.

### **PRN 45013 BRYN RHUDD COTTAGE**

No further quarrying should be carried out at this deserted cottage site. These features are a valuable element of the historic landscape and should be preserved. It would be desirable if the trackway could be restored to its earlier form.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	1997	<b>Site Name</b>	GAER FAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64887188
<b>Site Type</b>	HILLFORT	<b>Period</b>	Iron Age	<b>Site status</b>	SAM - Cd050

### Description

The hillfort consists of well defined ramparts to the north, slightly weaker defences to the west and east, and has a steep natural slope to the south. The defences enclose a roughly rectangular area approximately 180 metres by 90 metres, orientated in a north-east – south-west axis on the highest point of the hill top. To the north and west is a double bank and ditch. To the east the ramparts consist of a single bank and ditch which at the mid point turn inwards suggesting an original entrance. A further break in the ramparts in the west may also be an original entrance.

The interior, which gently rises to the highest point on the north-east ramparts, has been ploughed in the past and any trace of structures within the defences is no longer visible on the ground surface.

In places the hillfort ramparts suffer from pockets of erosion caused by sheep and rabbits (plate 1), this appears to be an ongoing problem. Whilst some of the scrapes caused by sheep are obviously actively being eroded in other areas there is evidence that these scars are healing.

### Recommendations

In the long term the best solution to prevent the active erosion on the ramparts would be to reduce the levels of stock grazing and sheltering on the hillfort. However, it is suggested in the short term that either netting or brash is securely weighted down within the scrapes to prevent sheep using these pockets for shelter, thus causing further erosion. This would allow the grass cover to regenerate.

**Site Category** A



Plate 1 – the north ramparts of Gaer Fawr (Prn 1997) showing pockets of active erosion.

---

<b>PRN</b>	5178	<b>Site Name</b>	GAER FAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN65087198
<b>Site Type</b>	STANDING STONE	<b>Period</b>	Bronze Age		

### **Description**

A large quartz stone lies on the summit of a saddle-like ridge which lies to the east of the hillfort Gaer Fawr. The quartz monolith is recumbent, lying 1.7 metres in a north – south direction, 1.4 metres east –west and 0.6 metres in depth. The stone appears to be lying on an earth pedestal, worn around the base by sheep using it for shelter.

The origins of this stone are unknown, although it is likely that it relates to prehistoric activity of a ritual/religious nature or a landscape marker. The stone, although it appears isolated, may well have been a focal point over a very long period of time and may have been put to many different uses. It is therefore quite likely that there may be buried archaeological information relating to this activity surviving in the area around the stone.

This area appears to have been under cultivation at various times in the past, indicated by the presence of a clearance cairn (Prn 45009) situated just to the south of the stone. Also some small stones which have been deposited around the base of the stone.

### **Recommendations**

The area immediately surrounding this stone is suffering some erosion from sheep sheltering against it. This could be reduced by brash or netting being weighted down around the stone, preventing livestock getting to close to the stone and thereby allowing the grass cover to regenerate.

The stone should not be moved nor should anything be deposited on or against it. In order to protect against damage to any buried archaeology associated with the stone, no ground intrusive activity should take place within a 15 metre radius of the site.

**Site Category** A





Plate 2 – a recumbent stone (Prn 5178), suffering from erosion at its base.

---

<b>PRN</b>	45008	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN65267202
<b>Site Type</b>	STANDING STONE?	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

### **Description**

To the north east of the standing stone (PRN 5178) and the hillfort (PRN 1997) is a further recumbent large monolith. It is positioned on the hillslope facing north - east and appears partially buried. The dimensions are approximately 1 metre north – south and 0.75 metre east – west.

It is unknown whether this stone may be the result of prehistoric activity or whether it may be a natural feature.

### **Recommendations**

Until a further assessment can establish the origins of this stone it is advisable that it is retained in this position and in its' current state. For this reason it is also advised that no ground intrusive activities take place within 15 metres of this site, in order to protect any buried archaeology which may survive in this region.

**Site Category** D



Plate 3 – a recumbent stone of unknown origin (PRN 45008).

<b>PRN</b>	45009	<b>Site Name</b>	GAER FAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN65097197
<b>Site Type</b>	CLEARANCE CAIRN	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

Approximately 10 metres to the south of the standing stone (PRN 5178) is a clearance cairn. The cairn is composed of an assortment of stones and also includes an iron rod. These elements of various sizes are randomly collected into a heap. The cairn extends 5 metres in a north-south direction, 3 metres across and approximately 1 metre high.

### **Recommendations**

This clearance cairn is the end product of past agricultural practices and is a historic landscape feature in its own right. It should be retained as existing.

**Site Category** C



Plate 4 – clearance cairn (PRN 45009) situated to the south of standing stone (PRN 5178)

<b>PRN</b>	45010	<b>Site Name</b>	GAER FAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64567197
<b>Site Type</b>	QUARRY	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### Description

A quarry is situated on the gentle north-west facing slopes below the hillfort Gaer Fawr (PRN 1997). The quarry is not identified on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906. It survives as a north – south cut, and at it's longest extent is 30 metres and about 4 metres deep.

### Recommendations

This quarry should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature and should not be infilled.

**Site Category** C



Plate 5 – quarry (PRN 45010) in the foreground with Gaer Fawr (PRN 1997) in the distance.

<b>PRN</b>	45011	<b>Site Name</b>	GAER FAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64617191
<b>Site Type</b>	QUARRY	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

The remains of a quarry is situated on the gentle west facing slope below Gaer Fawr (PRN 1997). The quarry appears to have been substantially in filled and grassed over. It is roughly circular, approximately 25-30 metres in diameter and only a metre deep at its greatest. This quarry is identified as a rough area of ground on both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps 1891 and 1906, which suggests it was probably out of use by the later part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Recommendations**

The remains of this quarry should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature and it should be retained in it's current state.

**Site Category** C

---



<b>PRN</b>	45012	<b>Site Name</b>	GAER FAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64967182
<b>Site Type</b>	QUARRY	<b>Period</b>	Unknown		

### **Description**

A long quarry cut is situated at the south east corner of the hillfort (PRN 1997) on the south facing slope. The quarry cut is 20 –25 metres long in a north south orientation, 6 metres wide and 2 metres deep. The natural strike of the rock is visible. The interior of the quarry has an assorted collection of small stones.

### **Recommendations**

This quarry should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature. No further infilling of the quarry should be carried out.

**Site Category** C



Plate 6 – a long narrow quarry cut in the south facing slopes below Gaer Fawr (PRN 1997)

<b>PRN</b>	45013	<b>Site Name</b>	BRYN RHUDD	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64737213
<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

In the valley at the north side of Gaer Fawr are the remains of a cottage with an associated enclosure and trackway. The site of this cottage was recorded on the tithe map and apportionment 1841. At this time the site must already have been deserted, since it is recorded as “site of Bryn Rhudd”. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906 also record the site by name but do not indicate that it is in use.

Today the north side of the site, where the cottage once stood, has been subject to recent quarrying and there are no further visible remains of any buildings. However, to the south in the valley are the low earthwork banks of the associated garden / enclosure, surviving to a height of approximately 0.5 metres.

A trackway is still visible which leads to the site, and is flanked by earth banks topped with overgrown hedgerow trees to either side. A large quantity of hardcore has been deposited over the track to a height of approximately 0.5 metre.

### **Recommendations**

No further quarrying should be carried out at this deserted cottage site. These features are a valuable element of the historic landscape and should be preserved. It would be desirable if the trackway could be restored to it's earlier form.

**Site Category** B



Plate 7 – the enclosure banks of the cottage site of Bryn Rhudd (PRN 45013)

---



<b>PRN</b>	45014	<b>Site Name</b>	LLUESTMAEN	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN63717212
<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	Post Medieval		

### **Description**

A cottage and associated enclosure are recorded on the tithe map and apportionment of 1841. The small holding was part of the Earl of Lisburne's estate and was tenanted by David Edwards. A rectangular building was sited on an east – west axis, positioned close to the boundary (which still exists). The small holding and the associated enclosures must have been abandoned during the 19<sup>th</sup> century since there is nothing of it recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891.

At the time of the farm visit the grass cover was long and consequently it was difficult to make a thorough assessment. No visible traces of the building or related enclosures could be seen. However, there is still potential for buried archaeology to survive.

### **Recommendations**

To protect any buried archaeology this area should not be subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** D

---

<b>PRN</b>	45015	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74516827
<b>Site Type</b>	EARTHWORKS	<b>Period</b>	Modern?		

### Description

A series of linear features exist in this west facing, gently sloping field. A long trench runs from north – south, shallow to the south and gradually becoming deeper towards the north where it is approximately 0.5 metres deep. At its northern extent the gully turns to the north west where it continues for about a further 16 metres. Where the gully ends a linear bank continues on the same alignment to the west for a further 20 metres. A further bank run east - west in the mid point of the field.

It is unknown what these features are; they may be attempts to drain this predominantly boggy field or alternatively they may be features which relate to the lead mine which is situated to the north west, in the adjacent field.

### Recommendations

These banks and ditches should be retained as visible landscape features.

**Site Category** C



Plate 8 – a linear bank in foreground (PRN 45015) with Llwyn-llwyd Mine beyond.

<b>PRN</b>	45016	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74436821
<b>Site Type</b>	STANDING STONE?	<b>Period</b>	Unknown		

### **Description**

A large tapering stone (approximately 1.5m long) lies recumbent near the boundary adjoining a trackway. The stone is orientated on a south west – north east axis.

It is possible that this stone may be a natural feature. However, further assessment should be carried out within the context of the surrounding area to determine if its existence in this location may be the result of human activity.

### **Recommendations**

Until further assessment determines whether or not this stone is a natural feature, it should not be moved, obscured or damaged in any way. The surrounding area, within 15 metres proximity, should not be subject to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	45017	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74606821
<b>Site Type</b>	DRAIN?	<b>Period</b>	Modern		

### **Description**

At the southern end of the field a recent deep cut extends almost the width of the field. The cut is vertically sided and flat bottomed, approximately 1.3 metre wide and 1.2 metre deep. A spoil tip runs parallel along the southern edge.

This would appear to be a recent attempt to drain the field.

### **Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	45018	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN74596816
<b>Site Type</b>	POND	<b>Period</b>	Modern		

**Description**

At the southern end of the field a circular pond has recently been cut.

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	45019	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64837169
<b>Site Type</b>	QUARRY	<b>Period</b>	Modern		

**Description**

A large quarry is situated on the north side of the road. Since the quarry is not marked on either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891,1906), it would appear to be a 20<sup>th</sup> century extraction.

**Recommendations**

This quarry should not be infilled, and should be retained as a visible landscape feature.

**Site Category** D

## **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 Rhosdie (1841)

Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Gwnnws (1846)

1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) Cardiganshire Sheet XVI.SE

2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1906) Cardiganshire Sheet XVI.SE

1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) Cardiganshire Sheet XV.NE

2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1906) Cardiganshire Sheet XV.NE

**Rhiwgraidd  
W/11/3803**

**REPORT NUMBER 2002/57**

6<sup>th</sup> August 2002

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature  Date 28/08/2002

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

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature  Date 28/08/2002

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