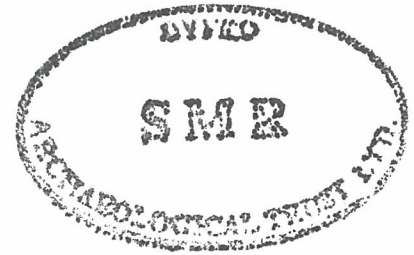


JUNE 2002



# Alltfawr W/11/2618

## Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/52

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/52  
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26<sup>th</sup> June 2002

Alltfawr  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

Alice Pyper

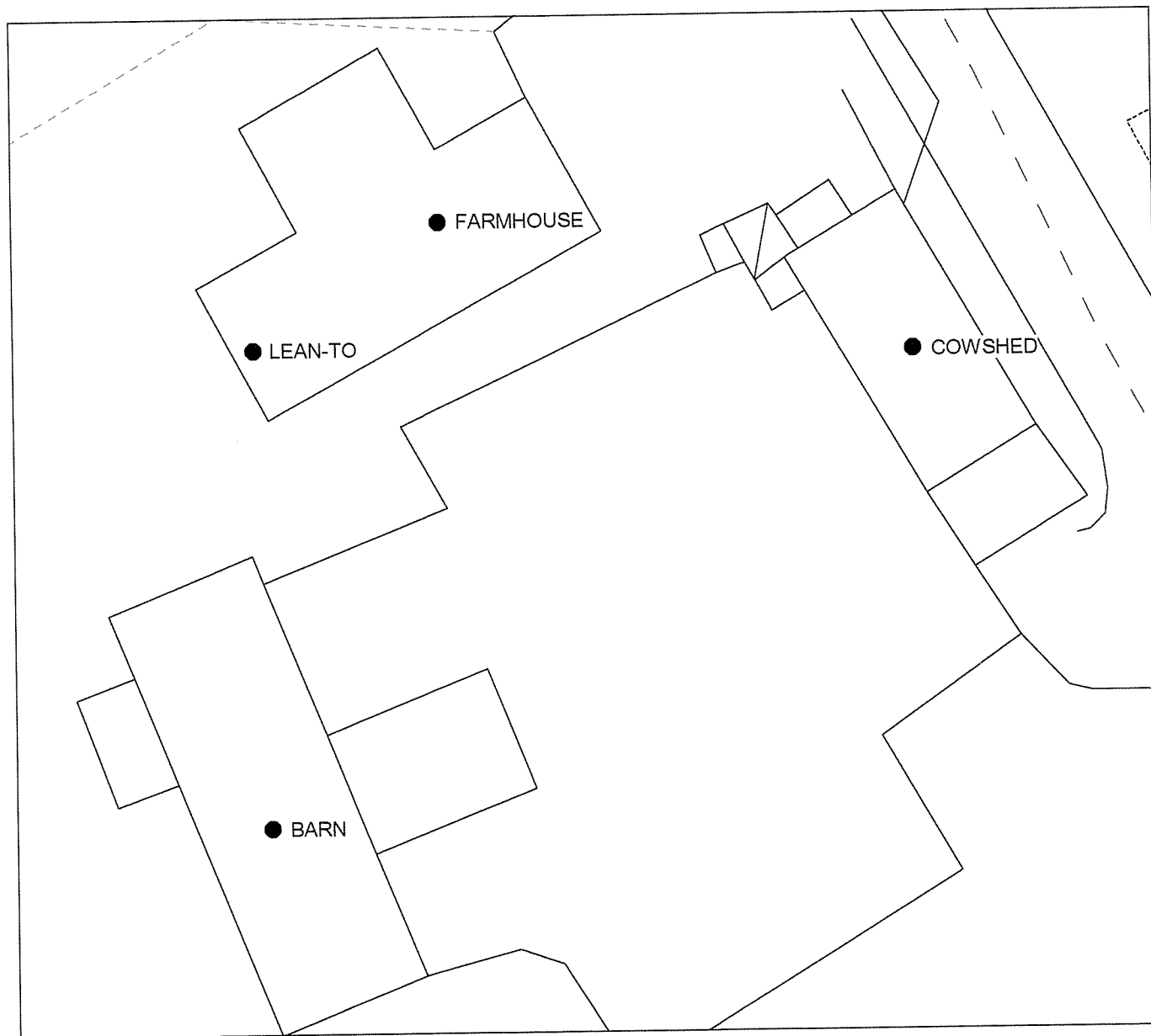
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**Alltfawr**  
**Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation**  
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## **CALL OUT VISIT**

A call out visit was requested to Alltfawr to assess the condition and historical significance of the farm buildings and also particularly the lean-to adjoining the farmhouse which may be demolished.

### **Farm Description**

Alltfawr is situated to the north side of the A 475 Lampeter to Newcastle Emlyn road just over a kilometre to the east of the village of Llanwnnen.

The farmstead of Alltfawr is first recorded in its current position on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. The tithe map of 1813 does record a farmstead of Alltfawr on the south side of the road, but no buildings at all in the existing position of the farm.

The layout of the farmstead seems to have changed little from that recorded by the Ordnance Survey in the late 19th century. The farmhouse is positioned at the highest level (north side) of the farmyard, with the farm buildings positioned in a courtyard arrangement; the low built cowshed to the east and a substantial, part two storey barn to the west.

Alltfawr is a well composed farmstead, the farmhouse and farm buildings probably built as a planned unit which creates an architecturally coherent group.

### **Lean-to**

#### Description

Against the farmhouse, on the west gable end is a lean-to (plate 1). It is built in local shale slabs and bonded with lime mortar. The single pitched roof is covered with slate. It is approximately 5.4 metres by 2.5 metres. The lean-to walls are not keyed into the farmhouse walls, indicating that it is a later build than the farmhouse. The masonry is evidently historic and may have been constructed fairly soon after the farmhouse was built. The south side of the lean-to has an earlier doorway, subsequently blocked with masonry. The current entrance is situated in the west wall and constitutes a wide doorway, approximately 1.6 metres wide. This has been partially unfilled with corrugated iron.





Plate 1 – Alltfawr farmhouse with the lean-to in the foreground.

In the north wall there is a hatch situated up at loft level (plate 2). A truss has been inserted across the centre of the lean-to which gave additional support to the roof. This was presumably inserted prior to the doorway being inserted into the west side, since the truss is currently merely supported by being nailed to a post. Two further sockets in the gable wall of the farmhouse are also visible at loft floor height to the south side of this truss.

Internally the lean-to was evidently lofted over with a whitewash finish indicating the floor level. Mr. Jones believes the previous owners kept chickens in the loft. The ground floor was concreted over by Mr. Jones.





Plate 2 – the north wall of the lean-to, showing the loft floor level and hatch above

The current condition of the lean-to is very poor. The slates have slipped in various places but particularly to the north where the ivy has penetrated to a great extent. There has also evidently been some structural movement which has caused cracking in the masonry at the south west corner. The lean-to also appears to have moved in relation to its' position against the house, partly due to the fact that it is not keyed into the masonry of the gable end of the house. The lean-to, previously used for livestock, has not been used for some time.

#### Management Recommendations

That the lean-to is in a poor structural condition is evident. However, it could feasibly be restored, although this may require a good deal of rebuild and renewal, which would undoubtedly be costly. If restoration of the lean-to is pursued then this should be undertaken using traditional materials.

Whilst there is general presumption in favour of retaining historic fabric, this has to be balanced against the economic costs of restoration. The best method for preservation of a historic building is to find a new use for which the necessary expenditure would be justified.



The issue of restoration also has to be considered within the context of the farmstead as a whole, and in this case each of the farm buildings form an important historic element, which potentially outweigh the historic significance of the lean-to.

In the event that the lean-to is dismantled, the opportunity was taken during the farm visit, to make a basic archaeological record of the lean-to, which entailed taking photographs and a making an annotated sketch plan.

If possible the lean-to should be dismantled only so far as necessary to make it safe and the ground surface left undisturbed, in this way much of the historic information about the development of the farm would be retained. Ideally building materials should also be salvaged from the lean-to and re-used in the repair and maintenance of the other farm buildings.

## **Barn**

### Description

The barn is built across the slope with a granary at the higher (north) end accessed by a few external steps in the gable wall. The barn is constructed out of a mixture of some river worn rubble and course hewn stone, with substantial roughly dressed quoins (plate 3). It has a pitched roof covered in slate. Central to the west elevation is a single doorway.



Plate 3 – the east elevation of the barn



The east elevation retains a cart shed at the north end which is accessed through a low stone arched entrance. The central and lower section of the barn have been modified by a large, almost full height, doorway with concrete lintel and by a breeze block addition extending to the east. At the south end of the barn is a further extension, lower in height, with a pitched corrugated iron roof. The floor of this barn appears to be largely intact cobbles, entered by a doorway in the east elevation (plate 4).



Plate 4 – the lower part of the barn showing the internal floor cobbling.

This barn retains much of the original, historic fabric including some significant features in particular the low stone arched openings and the floor cobbling in the lower section. The barn appears to be in reasonable condition and structurally sound. There are only a few roof slates which appear to have slipped. The interior was not seen.



### Management Recommendations

This barn should be retained and maintained using appropriate, traditional materials. The roof slates should be replaced where necessary to maintain an intact and weatherproof covering. Any historic internal fittings should be retained if possible.

### **Cow Shed**

#### Description

A low one-storey cow shed is situated to the east of the farmyard (plate 5). It is also of rubble construction with a painted finish, it has a pitched slated roof. It has two doorways positioned in the west elevation, alternately spaced with windows.

The cow shed is currently undergoing conversion into a holiday cottage.

### Management Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.



Plate 5 – the former cow shed which is now being converted into holiday accommodation.

### **Sources**

Tithe Map and Apportionment of Lampeter Parish. 1813.

1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map 1887. Cardiganshire sheet XXXIII.SE

2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map 1906. Cardiganshire sheet XXXIII.SE

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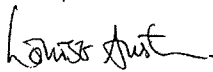
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Signature  Date 28<sup>th</sup> June 2002

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
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Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature  Date 16<sup>th</sup> July 2002

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