

Morfa Ganol

W/11/2635

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Morfa Ganol is rich in prehistoric archaeology, including this standing stone, Prn 5293.

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Morfa Ganol
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

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 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 48710)

Morfa Ganol lies within Penbryn community on the coast of Ceredigion, just over a kilometre southwest of the village of Llangranog.

The farm comprises one holding, shaped like an inverted 'L' with a long strip of land extending from the farmstead to the coast. The topography is gently undulating with the highest point reaching over 150 metres. The landscape pattern defined by field boundaries is one of medium sized fields, those extending from the farmstead are regular in shape, whilst those to the west of the farmstead are more irregular; probably influenced by the topography. These field boundaries have largely been in place at least since the Tithe map was recorded in 1841 although some boundaries at the limits of the holding have been lost.

The farm benefits from a rich archaeological record, with prehistoric activity well represented. On the coastal slopes is a rectangular promontory fort (Prn 1368) which is thought to be nationally significant and has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Cd 091). Although currently somewhat overgrown with gorse and thorn, it is hoped that a programme of scrub clearance can be implemented through the scheme.

There appears to be significant Bronze Age activity also represented on the coastal zone. A standing stone has previously been recorded in the fields to the north of the farmstead (Prn 5293), and a further two monoliths have now been recorded, situated in a line along the conjoining fields to the northwest (Prns 48706 & 48707). It is possible these may form a stone alignment.

To the south of the holding, at the highest point on the farm is a further prehistoric site Prn 1375, an Iron Age hillfort. This site has been eroded by cultivation in the past but is still visible as a slight earthwork.

The farmstead itself consists of two parallel ranges of farm buildings which have now both been converted to provide holiday accommodation. The working farm buildings are now large modern sheds located on the other side of the road. The farmhouse and ty-bach is situated apart from the farmyard, set back from the road.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Prn 1368 – Castell Bach Promontary Fort SAM Cd 091

The main recommendations for active management concern the promontory fort, where the advice of Cadw was sought:

The aim for the site should be to reduce the amount of gorse and scrub and provide a stable ground covering vegetation. This will enhance the visibility of the site and also prevent erosion where animals use the vegetation for shelter. Also the movements of the animals will also be dispersed, preventing channels of erosion across the sensitive earthworks. These efforts should be particularly concentrated on the eastern ramparts which appear to be the most seriously effected.

The top growth of the gorse and scrub should be cut off and removed from the site. No ground intrusive activities or removal of roots should be carried out. It maybe that the new vegetative shoots will be grazed off by the stock, however the site should be monitored in order that the desired effect is achieved and it may be necessary to review the management options at the five year break.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	1368	Site Name	CASTELL BACH	Grid Reference	SN30255355
Site Type	PROMONTORY FORT	Period	Iron Age	Site Status	SAM Cd 091

Description

A promontory fort is located at the top of a steep slope on the coast. It is almost rectangular in shape with fairly straight banks that enclose just over a hectare. The major ramparts are situated across the eastern side of the fort, with banks which stand to c. 2 metres high and an external ditch of approximately 1 metre deep interrupted by a central causewayed entrance. The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps show two enclosures and a possible relict building at the south end of the eastern ramparts. Nothing is indicated in this area on the tithe map, but the form of the enclosures would suggest that this might be a relict cottage site. This area is now almost entirely engulfed with thorn trees, however the remains of a stone structure which would appear to relate to this feature could be seen.

The banks of the fort are now densely covered with gorse and thorn. There are areas of the ground surface which have suffered from erosion apparently caused by sheep using the gorse for shelter. The encroachment of the gorse is also channelling the movements of stock which is also causing erosion of the ground surface. It is a priority of the management of this site to halt the erosion caused by stock and allow the ground surface to stabilise.

Recommendations

The following management recommendations have been made in consultation with Cadw.

The aim for the site should be to reduce the amount of gorse and scrub and provide a stable ground covering vegetation. This will enhance the visibility of the site and also prevent erosion where animals use the vegetation for shelter. Also the movements of the animals will also be dispersed, preventing channels of erosion across the sensitive earthworks. These efforts should be particularly concentrated on the eastern ramparts which appear to be the most seriously effected.

The top growth of the gorse and scrub should be cut off and removed from the site. No ground intrusive activities or removal of roots should be carried out. It maybe that the new vegetative shoots will be grazed off by the stock, however the site should be monitored in order that the desired effect is achieved and it maybe necessary to review the management options at the five year break.

Site Category A



Prn 1368 – the eastern ramparts of the promontory fort have become overgrown with mature gorse shrubs.



Prn 1386 - Stock are now using the gorse for shelter, causing erosion in some places.

PRN	1375	Site Name	GAER LWYD	Grid Reference	SN30145241
Site Type	HILLFORT	Period	Iron Age		

Description

The remains of a hillfort are situated in a prominent position just below the hilltop overlooking the steep sided Hoffnant valley to the south east. The banks enclose a roughly square area of half a hectare. The upstanding earthwork is approximately 0.5 metre high, and very wide spread, up to 12 metres wide in places, presumably caused by previous episodes of ploughing. The south and east bank is incorporated into a sprawling hedgeline approximately 5 metres wide, which is grown over with thorn, bramble and bracken. On the southern slopes is a dense vegetation cover of thorn and bracken. At its northeastern edge a cross-county jump has been constructed within the hedgeline. The interior which is slightly terraced out does not show any traces of hut circles or other structures.

Although the earthworks are not very obvious the outline of this hillfort is still visible on the ground. When the site was visited it was under pasture and appeared to be in a stable condition.

Recommendations

This site should be retained in its current state. Although this archaeological site has been subject to cultivation in the past, there are very likely sensitive archaeological layers which survive below cultivation levels. In order to preserve these deposits, no further ground intrusive activities should be carried out on this site. If any ground disturbing activities are considered necessary, please consult with Cambria Archaeology in advance.

Site Category A



Prn 1375 – the remains of the hillfort of Gaer-lwyd is perceptible as a slight earthwork, in this picture a slight rise to the right of the wooden jump indicates line of the northeastern defences.

PRN	5293	Site Name	GARREG LLWYD	Grid Reference	SN30585301
Site Type	STANDING STONE	Period	Bronze Age		

Description

A standing stone approximately 1.6 metre in height with a slight lean to the north. The stone is about 1 metre wide north-south and 0.7 metre wide east-west. At its base are a scattering of smaller stones, which may be an accumulation from various episodes of field clearance or, as suggested when the site was visited in 1988, they maybe the remains of a burial cairn, (Ray, K. 1988, p47)

This standing stone may relate to the two further stones which lie in the fields to the northwest (Prn 48706 & 48707), which may form part of an alignment.

Recommendations

The standing stone is situated in the middle of a field of pasture. Excavations in the area around standing stones have shown that, over a very long time period, various episodes of activity have taken place. The traces of this activity survive as pits, cobbled surfaces, burials or cremations, which lie below the ground surface. In order to protect these sensitive remains ideally a margin of at least 5 metres around the stone should be left undisturbed. If ground disturbing activities are being carried out in this area please inform Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category A



Prn 5293 – a standing stone, viewed from the southeast and looking out to sea.

Site Type	QUARRY	Period	Post Medieval
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An extensive quarry is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881. At this time it was apparently only partially in use; the northern section of it is labelled 'quarry' and the southern and central area is indicated as 'old quarry' and has apparently fallen out of use at this stage. It is also shown as woodland.

Recommendations

Site Category C

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PRN **48706** **Site Name** **Grid Reference** **SN30405336**

Site Type **RECUMBENT** **Period** **Bronze Age?**
 STONE?

Description

A large recumbent stone lies 3 – 4 metres from the hedgeline. The stone is approximately 1.2 metres across and is a fairly amorphous shape. Other fragments of stone lie within close proximity to it and are presumably the result of clearance. There does not appear to be much evidence of other large stones outcropping in the area which would indicate that it was a natural feature, and when taken into consideration with the other two monoliths (Prn 48707 and Prn 5293) in close proximity it may indicate that this is part of a Bronze Age stone alignment.

The stone is situated in a field of improved pasture within the hedgerow margin.

Recommendations

Ground disturbing activities should be avoided within 5 metres of the stone.

Site Category **D**



Prn 48706 – a recumbent stone viewed from the northwest. Beyond the immediate field boundary is the standing stone Prn 48707, and beyond the further boundary is the stone Prn 5293. Unfortunately due to the field boundaries in-between it is difficult to see whether they form an alignment and are intervisible.

PRN **48707** **Site Name** **Grid Reference** **SN30425332**

Site Type **STANDING** **Period** **Bronze Age**
 STONE

Description

A large standing stone is situated approximately 30 metres to the south of the recumbent stone Prn 48706. The stone is about 1.3 metres in diameter and the same in height. There is a smaller stone fragment immediately to the south of the stone which maybe the result of clearance. Again the stone is fairly amorphous in shape tapering to the top.

The stone is situated within a field of pasture. There is some wear around the base of the stone although the turf has not been worn away, presumably caused by stock using the stone for shelter and as a rubbing post.

Recommendations

Since archaeological deposits probably survive below cultivation levels the ground within a 5 metre radius of the stone should be left undisturbed.

Site Category **A**



Prn 48707 – a standing stone viewed from the southeast. The recumbent stone Prn 48706 lies just beyond the hedge.

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


- Ordnance Survey, 1881. Cardiganshire sheet XXXI.NW
Ordnance Survey, 1906. Cardiganshire sheet XXXI.NW
Ray, K. 1988. *Archaeology in Wales*
Tithe Map of Penbryn Parish, 1841
Tithe Apportionment of Penbryn Parish, 1838


Morfa Ganol

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/2635
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN44128
National Grid Reference SN30555283


 Farm Boundary

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

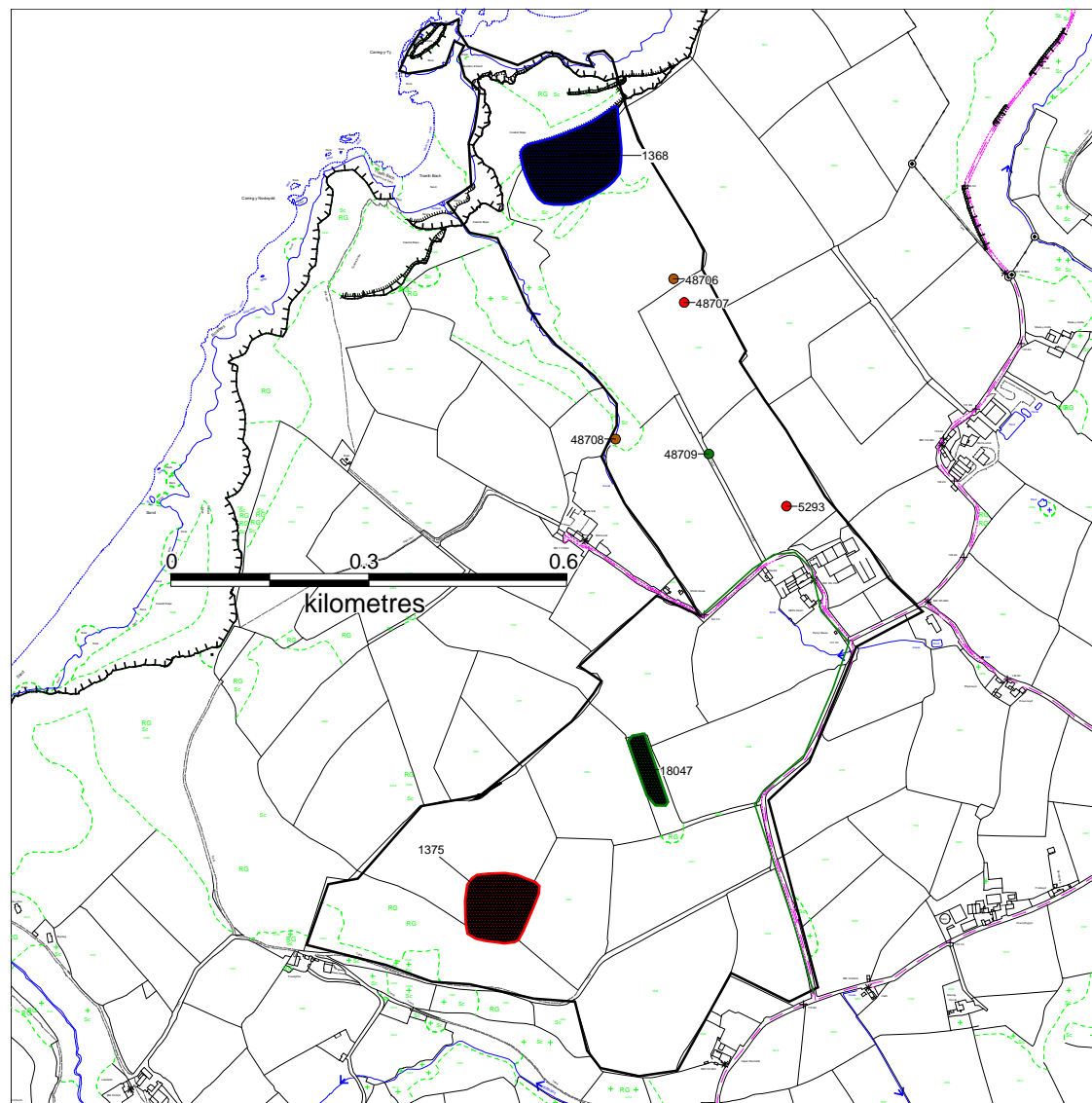
Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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