



Tynygraig W/11/2770

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/58

Report Prepared for: Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/58 PROJECT RECORD NO. 44131

5th July 2002

Tynygraig
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Method Statement	3
General Description of farm	4
Main Management Recommendations	5
Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments	6
Site and Area Status Glossary	23
References	23
Quality Assurance Report	24
Form Man	

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

Tynygraig consists of four separate holdings, of which the upland areas are currently signed into an Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) agreement. The areas which are currently covered by an ESA agreement were not visited on this occasion.

The proposed areas which are be signed into the Tir Gofal scheme include the holding which is associated with the farmstead of Tynygraig, PRN 45005, (Holding A) and half of the nearby holding centred around the old farmstead of Gwar-cwm-uchaf, PRN 45006, (Holding B).

The Tynygraig holding, PRN 45005, (Holding A) is situated just over a kilometre to the north east of Tal-y-bont. The Jenkins family live at the Tynygraig farmstead, and are the fourth generation to do so. The farmstead is recorded on the tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn Parish (1847/1845) when the farm was owned by Pryse Pryse of Plas Gogerdden and tenanted by William James. The Tynygraig holding of 64 hectares (158 acres) appears not to have changed significantly from this period; the field pattern remaining as medium sized irregularly shaped enclosures.

The field boundaries are generally constructed with stone and earth banks planted with hedges. These boundaries survive in various states of preservation; in some places only as low banks with isolated hedgerow trees marking them out.

The farmstead itself is currently composed of the 19th century farmhouse, which is set away from the farm buildings with a south east aspect. The historic buildings consist of a long range including a barn, stable and cow shed. At the south end of this range is a cart shed set at right angles to the previous range. Large modern agricultural sheds now flank the earlier barns to the east and to the south of the farmyard. Facing the farmhouse is a small enclosure, a garden, in which Mr. Jenkins has planted fruit trees.

The earliest element of the farmstead would appear to be the barn (PRN 44996), which is recorded on the tithe map (1847). Three other buildings scattered around the farmyard are also recorded at this time, these appear to bear no relation to any existing buildings. With the survey of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 the farmstead had formed the footprint which can be seen today.

Holding B is centred on the farmstead of Gwar-cwm-uchaf (PRN 45006). The holding is 67 hectares (165 acres) situated on the steeply sloping southern banks of the Afon Cletwr which flows from the uplands in a westerly direction. The tithe map and apportionment for the parish of Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn Parish (1847/1845) shows the holding existing almost in its' current form. The field pattern was established with medium to large enclosures to the west, with an open area of sheep walk to the east. The eastern half of this holding, which incorporates much of the upland areas, is currently part of an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA).

The farmstead of Gwar-cwm-uchaf is represented on the tithe map as a long range of the buildings, PRN 45000, built on a north north west - south south east axis (across the slope) with a

short range opposite (PRN 45001). The barn (PRN 44999) is also shown. At this time the holding was owned by Matthew Davies and tenanted by John Davies. The current farmhouse, which is let to tenants, is a 19th century house, set apart from the old farmstead and facing south east.

Both the farm holdings hold a wonderful industrial heritage of mine workings. However, the individual levels and mine workings which have been identified on the farm holdings should not be seen in isolation. They exist within an area rich in mining activity, from isolated and scattered shafts and levels to the larger of mines of Bryn-yn-Arian.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Both the holdings demonstrate a diversity of archaeological remains, ranging from deserted settlements to industrial mine-workings. The farmsteads themselves are also of great historic interest and any proprosed works should be carried out in consultation with Cambria Archaeology.

Should the other holdings be admitted into the Tir Gofal scheme at a later stage it is strongly recommended that these holdings are also subject to a farm visit to assess the archaeological potential.

PRN 44994 PANT Y MOELIN

The remains of these cottages are evidence of a settlement which appears to have been deserted for around 100 years. These early structures should be retained as historic features.

To help preserve these features the ring feeder should be relocated well away from the settlement to prevent erosion by animals gathering in this location. It is also advisable that the stone stored within the walls of the other structure is carefully removed.

PRN 45000 GWAR-CWM-UCHAF

The owners hope to restore the farmhouse back to a domestic use with the possibility of letting to holiday makers. This would be a very worthwhile undertaking. The conversion back to domestic use should be carried out in a sensitive manner using traditional materials and retaining as much of the historic fabric and the integrity of the existing openings as possible. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has apparently already undertaken a survey of part of the building. However, it is essential that a record is made of all those areas which are to be affected by the restoration, including the fixtures and fittings which may relate to its' later agricultural uses.

Any ground works which are undertaken to provide services or for the purpose of relaying floors etc. may also require archaeological supervision. Please notify Cambria Archaeology prior to works being undertaken.

PRN 45002 GWAR-CWM-UCHAF

The pigsties are gradually becoming overgrown. Ideally the vegetation should be cut back, and if possible the roots should be removed unless this will cause damage to the masonry.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

Holding A

PRN 25831 Site Name TY'N Y Grid Reference SN66819020

GRAIG

Site Type METAL MINE- Period Post Medieval

LEAD

Description

This site is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 as an "Old Level – Lead". The earthwork remains of a level can clearly be identified, with a characteristic cleft in the natural slope and on the downslope a mound of spoil all of which has become naturalised with vegetation (plate 1). There may be further earthworks associated with this mine which were not identified during the farm visit.

Recommendations

This site should be maintained as a visible feature and not in-filled or disturbed in any way. It is currently in a stable condition and should continue to be maintained in its' current condition.



Plate 1 – the remains of the old lead mining level PRN 25831.

25974

Site Name

TY-MAWR

Grid Reference SN66909020

Site Type

METAL MINE

Period

Post Medieval

Description

This record would appear to refer to the mine workings also recorded as PRN 25831.

Recommendations

See PRN 25831 for management recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN

6204

Site Name

TY'N Y

Grid Reference SN67019036

Site Type

UNKNOWN

Period

GRAIG Unknown

Description

A circular cropmark (cropmark - a buried archaeological site which has been identified by differential growth of vegetation or soil marks) has been identified from aerial photographs. This site is no longer a visible feature, although there may be archaeological remains surviving below ground level.

Recommendations

No ground disturbing activities should be carried out in this area. The current management regime of grazing poses no threat to the potential archaeological remains which may survive here. However, care should be taken to prevent erosion or poaching by livestock.

44993

Site Name

TYNYGRAIG

Grid Reference

SN66629036 SN66539021

SN66699048

Site Type

ROAD

Period

Unknown

Description

Above the farmstead of Tynygraig, following the line of the natural ridge is what is known locally as the Roman road and is thought to continue to the north east past a farm known as Pen-y-sarn. At ground level the ridge indeed does have the appearance of a trackway with a levelled surface approximately 4 metres across (plate 2). To the west is a hedge line and ditch 1 metre deep. While the route to the north east can be traced and is still defined by a public right of way, to the south, where the ridge drops away to the valley of the Afon Ceulan, the route is less easy to pinpoint.

The nearest Roman remains to be found in the vicinity, the fortlet of Erglodd, are just over a kilometre almost due west of Tynygraig farm. Although the route of the Roman road is unidentified in this area it is presumed to have continued from the fortlet at Erglodd in a north, north east direction for 12 kilometres to the fort at Pennal. Since the suggested route from Tynygraig is somewhat out of kilter with the Roman remains in the locality it may be that the trackway/road dates from a different period. Indeed the prehistoric remains which lie along its course to the north east (Bedd Taliesin PRN 4033) may even indicate an altogether earlier origin.

Recommendations

Whatever the origins of this route it would appear to be of some antiquity and should be managed to retain it's character and form. Therefore no ground disturbing activities should be undertaken along its' course and the route should be retained as a visible landscape feature.

Site Name PANT Y

Grid Reference SN66719047

MOELIN

Site Type COTTAGE

Period

Post Medieval

Description

The site of a former cottage is identified on the tithe map of 1845, with at least four separate structures or buildings with associated enclosures. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1886, the settlement appears to have largely been abandoned and only one building is in use. This trend continues, and with the survey of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map in 1906, only the outline of the enclosures is recorded.

The remains of the settlement are still discernable and the outlines of two buildings are defined by stone rubble walls (plate 3). The buildings appear to be positioned in the lea of the ridge to the west, with the back walls standing to a height of 1.5 metres in places. The front, east walls are much degraded and are visible only as low earth banks. The buildings are currently being used as the location for a ring feeder and also as a stone dump. The outline of the settlement which can be seen today does not completely correspond with that recorded on the tithe map, which suggests that there may be other remains which lie below ground level and are currently invisible. The remains of these cottages are evidence of a settlement which appears to have been deserted for around 100 years.

Recommendations

These early structures should be retained as historic features. To help preserve these features the ring feeder should be relocated well away from the settlement to prevent erosion by animals gathering in this location. It is also advisable that the stone stored within the walls of the other structure is carefully removed.



Plate 2 – the course of a possible ancient trackway (PRN 44993)



Plate 3 – site of the cottages at Pant y Moelin (PRN44994)

44995

Site Name

PENTASFAWN Grid

Reference

SN66719047

Site Type

FIELD

Period

Post Medieval

Description

The upper part of this field has a level area positioned above the farmstead, known to Mr. Jenkins as 'Pentasfawn', which translates as 'Heap of Peat'. Mr. Jenkins father believes this level area was used for storing peat to dry after it was brought off the mountain. The field is currently used for grazing.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN

44996

Site Name

TYNYGRAIG

Grid Reference SN66559008

Site Type

BARN AND

Period

Post Medieval

STABLE

Description

A barn is situated to the north east of the farm yard, constructed with squared stone quoins, with a central single width doorway and a ventilation slit to either side (plate 4). The doorway, entered by three steps is constructed with a flat stone arch. Characteristically an opposing doorway is situated in the north east wall, likewise centrally positioned between two ventilation slits. The roof, which is pitched slate, has been renewed approximately 10 years ago (Mr. Jenkins, pers. comm.). High in the south west elevation is a fly wheel connected to a drive shaft that still runs along the interior of the north gable wall. This was powered by a small engine which was located within a shed along the south west wall and has now been removed. Internally the barn is used as a workshop. This building appears to relate to that which is indicated on the tithe map of 1847.

At a later stage a two-storeyed stable has been added on to the north east gable end. The stable is constructed in a similar style to the adjoining barn although the stonework is more slatey. It has a doorway with a small square window to the south and a pitching door on the first floor. Internally there is a transverse wooden feeding rack and concrete manger, and one wooden stall partition surviving. Beside the doorway along the gable wall are harness hooks with various harnesses.

Recommendations

The barn and stable should continue to be maintained in good condition, using sympathetic materials. The existing internal fixtures and fittings should be retained if possible.

Site Name

TYNYGRAIG Grid Reference SN66549009

Site Type

COW SHED

Period

Post Medieval

Description

Adjoining the stable to the north west is a low range of cow sheds, apparently a later addition to the stable (Plate 5). Three doorways survive in the south west elevation; the central doorway has been partially blocked to create a window and the southern doorway has a later concrete lintel. The interior was not seen during the farm visit.

Recommendations

This building, in common with the adjoining stable and barn, is in good condition and should continue to be maintained using appropriate materials.



Plate 4 – the barn and stable range at Tynygraig (PRN 44996)



Plate 5 – the cow shed range (PRN 44997) with farm house beyond

PRN 44998 Site Name TYNYGRAIG Grid Reference SN66549007

Site Type CART SHED Period Post Medieval

Description

To the south east of the farmyard, at right angles to the barn range (PRN 44996 & 44997) is a rubble built stone cart shed, with a pitched slate roof (Plate 6). The north west facing elevation has two large cart entrances open to the eaves with a square stone pillar dividing them. The cart shed is in good condition and is in use as a store.

Recommendations

This building, in common with the other farm buildings, is in good condition and should continue to be maintained using appropriate materials.



Plate 6 - the cart shed (PRN 44998) to the south of the farmyard

Holding B

PRN 25829 Site Name COED- Grid Reference SN66909190

GWAR-CWM

Site Type MINE - LEAD Period Post Medieval

Description

This site is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 as a "Shaft (Lead)" which by the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 was referred to as an "Old Shaft" together with an "Old Level" in the same area. These mine workings are located within an area of woodland which is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) on the steeply sloping banks above the Afon Cletwr. The earthwork remains of these mine workings can be identified in the natural slope. However, the terrain in this area is very steeply sloping and access to the earthworks is difficult and treacherous in places. There may be further earthworks associated with this mine which were not identified during the farm visit.

Recommendations

This site should be maintained as a visible feature and not in-filled or disturbed in any way. It should continue to be maintained in its' current stable condition.

PRN 44999 Site Name GWAR-CWM- Grid Reference SN67359166

UCHAF

Site Type BARN? Period Post Medieval

Description

To the south of the farmstead of Gwar-cwm-uchaf are the remains of a building, situated to the east of the track on a north west-south east axis (Plate 7). The roof no longer survives and the walls have reduced from their full height. The south eastern gable stands to a height of approximately 2.5 metres and within the internal elevation are a series of sockets which indicate the position of joists for a first floor. Only evidence for one doorway remains, that is situated centrally in the south western lateral wall. This building has been turned into a sheltered walled garden, and although the wall-tops remain uncapped they appear well maintained and stable. The interior now holds a series of stone built raised beds and cold frames, with steps leading down from the doorway into the interior. It is unclear whether these steps are original or a more recent feature.

Recommendations

This building has been reused imaginatively and although it is technically a ruin, it appears well maintained in its' new role as a walled garden. It should continue to be maintained in a stable condition.



Plate 7 - a ruined barn (PRN 44999) imaginatively reused as a garden

45000

Site Name

GWAR-CWM- Grid Reference SN67379171

UCHAF

Site Type

FARMHOUSE

Period

POST

MEDIEVAL

Description

A small two storey farmhouse at Gwar-cwm-uchaf has been converted into a hay barn (Plate 8). It is situated across the slope, on a north south axis. The building consists of two major elements, at the top of slope (to the south) is the domestic range. At the lower end of the slope is a barn (PRN 45007). The domestic range is subdivided into two units, with a large central fireplace and square central chimney. Internally the south domestic end consists of an inglenook fireplace with a large timber lintel, with a stone winding stair at the side. The remains of a blocked doorway can be seen in the wall to the west of the fireplace and two existing doorways are located in the west and east elevations. There is only one window in the west elevation and a louvred vent in the gable end. The floorboards and joists have been removed to allow storage for hay but the beams survive.

To the north is a further two storey unit which has a fireplace in the north wall (external chimney has been removed). A central doorway is flanked by windows either side which are repeated in the second floor. A wooden feed rack and manger now occupy the east lateral wall divided into two by a wooden stall partition. The second floor has also latterly been used for hay storage.

The farmhouse is constructed out of rubble stone walling and pitched corrugated asbestos roofing. The building appears to be in a stable condition and have been well maintained.

Recommendations

The owners hope to restore the farmhouse back to a domestic use with the possibility of letting to holiday makers. This would be a very worthwhile undertaking. Such works are believed to require planning consent. The conversion back to domestic use should be carried out in a sensitive manner using traditional materials and retaining as much of the historic fabric and the integrity of the existing openings as possible. The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) has apparently already undertaken a survey of part of the building. However, it is essential that a record is made of all those areas which are to be affected by the restoration, including the fixtures and fittings which may relate to its' later agricultural uses.

Please contact Cambria Archaeology to discuss proposed works for this site in detail.

Site Category В



Plate 8 - the old farmhouse (PRN 45000) and barn (PRN 45007) at Gwar-cwm-uchaf

Site

GWAR-CWM- Grid Reference SN67379172

Name

UCHAF

Site Type **COW SHED**

Period

Post Medieval

Description

To the west and opposing the barn and farmhouse range (PRNs 45000 & 45007) is a small cow shed built in uncoursed rubble with brick dressings (Plate 9). There are two doorways in the east facing elevation with windows to the north of the doorways. The roof is pitched and slate covered. Internally is a lateral feed passage with concrete and brick stalls.

Recommendations

The cow shed should continue to maintained in its' current condition.



Plate 9 - the cow shed (PRN 45001) and pigsties (PRN 45002) in the foreground

45002

Site

GWAR-CWM- Grid Reference SN67379172

Name

UCHAF

PIGSTY Site Type

Period

Post Medieval

Description

To the south east of the cow shed (PRN 45001) and at right angles to it, are a pair of pigsties (Plate 9). The sties themselves seem to have collapsed and none of the roof structure survives. The yard walls remain and the openings survive although the interior is rather overgrown. The pigsties appear to be constructed out of rubble stone walling except where the dividing wall has been rebuilt in brick.

Recommendations

The pigsties are gradually becoming overgrown. Ideally the vegetation should be cut back, and if possible the roots should be removed unless this will cause damage to the masonry.

Site Category

PRN

45003

Site Name

COEDGWAR- Grid Reference SN67229186

Site Type

LEVEL

Period

CWM MINE Post Medieval

Description

This mine is situated on the banks of the steeply sloping valley of the Afon Cletwr. There is no record of a mine in this location on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. However, the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 records an 'Old Level' in roughly this area. Today the mine is located within mixed deciduous woodland which has been notified as an SSSI.

Recommendations

The mine is currently in a stable condition, and should be kept clear of debris and retained as a visible feature.

45004

Site

PONT

Grid Reference SN67599173

Name

CWMPANDY

Site Type **BRIDGE** Period

Post Medieval

Description

A single track lane bridges the Afon Cletwr at this point. The bridge is a single arched bridge constructed out of rubble stone with plain parapets to either side capped with concrete. The bridge is in good condition.

Recommendations

The bridge should be retained in its' current condition.

Site Category C

PRN

45007

Site

GWAR-CWM- Grid Reference SN67379171

Site Type

BARN

Name

UCHAF

Period Post Medieval

Description

The barn at the north end of the farmhouse (PRN 45000) is a later addition to the rest of the range with opposing doorways at the upper end, flanked by a single ventilation slit. At the lower end is a single doorway against the gable end. The barn roof has a lower pitch than the farmhouse, and is apparently constructed with raised cruck trusses.

Further lean-tos have been added on to the north gable end of the barn and laterally against the east elevation of the farmhouse range.

The barn is constructed out of rubble stone walling (except where the north gable end has collapsed and been replaced with blockwork) and pitched corrugated asbestos roofing. The building appears to be in a stable condition and have been well maintained.

Recommendations

This barn should continue to be maintained in its' current condition and any further repairs should be carried out using traditional materials.

Site Category В

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 Llanfihangel Genau'r Glyn Parish (1847/1845)

- 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1886/9, Cards sheet IV.NW
- 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1886/9, Cards sheet III.NE
- 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1906, Cards sheet IV.NW
- 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1906, Cards sheet III.NE

Tynygraig W/11/2770

REPORT NUMBER 2002/58

5th July 2002

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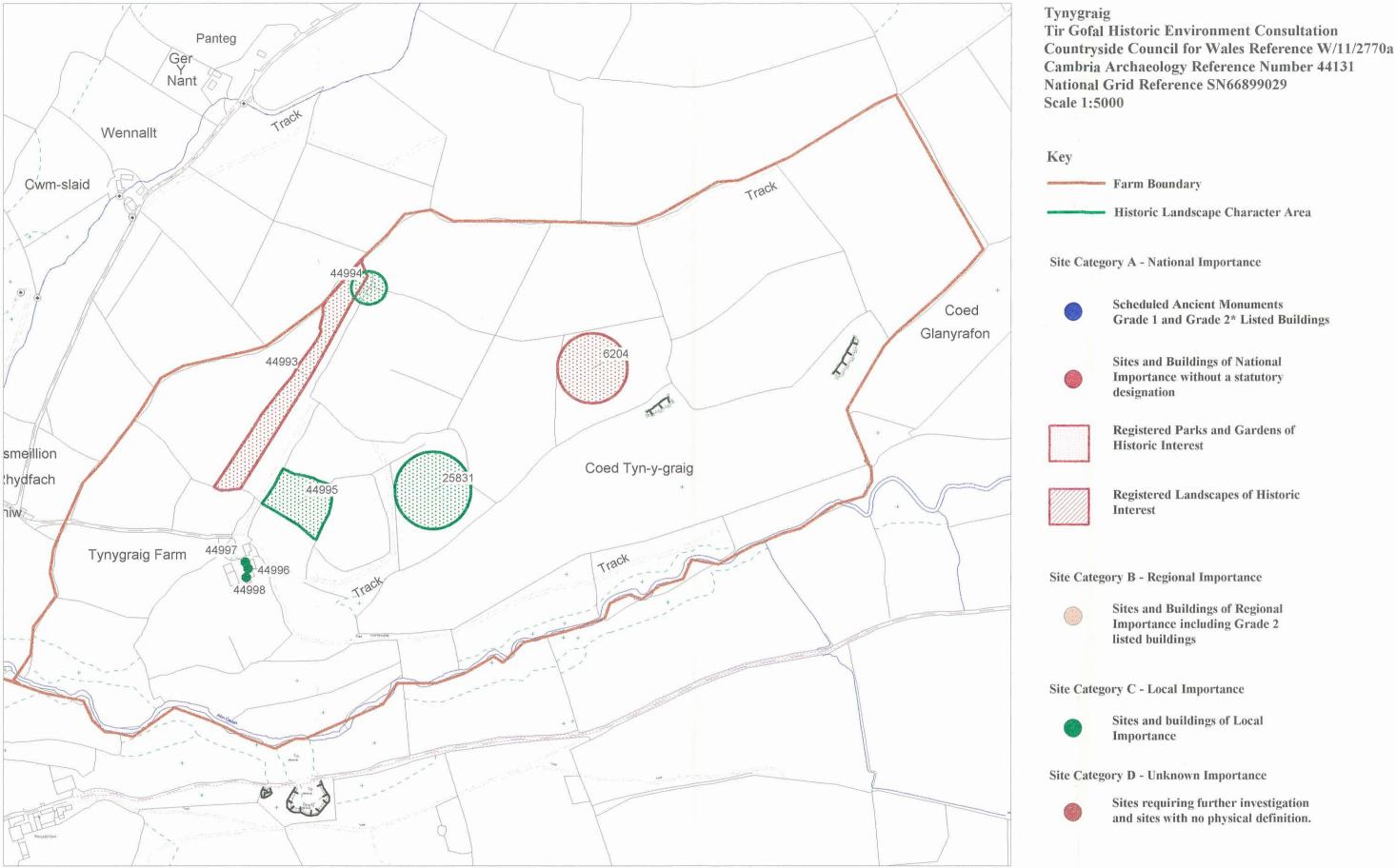
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Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

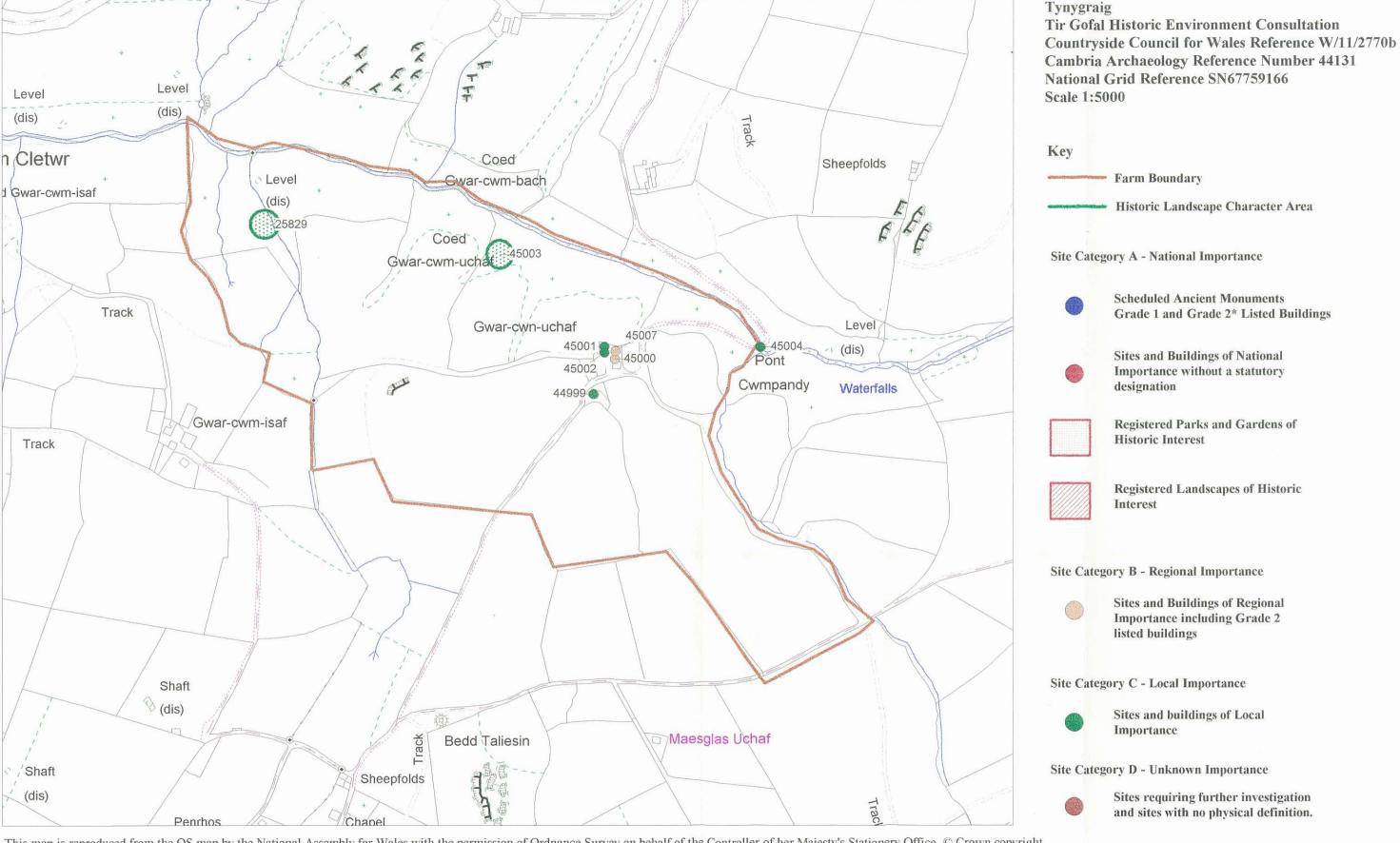
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