Nantyrodyn E/10/3503

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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Nanyrodyn Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

William Steele

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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 Ebost: 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

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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

Nantyrodyn (PRN 49226) comprises three land holdings, which lie within the community of Llanddeusant in the Brecon Beacons National Park. These are centred on SN74812610, SN77212644 and SN79302380. The two larger holdings were visited on the 24th October 2003.

All holdings fall within the Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai registered landscape of outstanding historic interest (CCW/Cadw 1998). This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, which identifies the different historic landscape components, which give a specific area its unique qualities.

The home farm of Nantyrodyn falls within the Llanddeusant- Capel-Gwynfe Historic Landscape Character Area: 233, which is characterised by small irregular fields, dispersed small farms and scattered woodland. This holding occupies part of the valley bottom of the Nant Cae Forris, and land here is divided into small irregular fields on earth and stone banks. This field pattern may be early in date, representing a system of small dispersed holdings, which were established by the time of the tithe surveys of the early nineteenth century.

A second holding, centred on the farmstead of Ty Ucha (PRN 49774) lies approximately two kilometres to the west. This holding falls between the Llanddeusant- Capel-Gwynfe Historic Landscape Character Area: 233, and the Rhiwiau Historic Landscape Character Area: 229. Small irregular fields characterise the southern, lower slopes of the holding, and the higher ground on Rhiwiau Hill gives way to a pattern of large, rectangular enclosures, which was in place by 1841, but may have been the result of recent enclosure undertaken by one of the larger local landowners. A stone slate field boundary, quarried locally from the Black Mountain "tile vein", transverses part of this holding in an east west direction at a height of approximately 320 metres. This may historically have divided the unenclosed higher ground from the fields below.

What is significant about these holdings is the large number of domestic buildings, which they contain. These recall a time of increased rural population before farms became consolidated into larger and larger units. Of the farmsteads seen on the historic maps only Nantyrodyn (PRN 49227) remains occupied and in active agricultural use today. Only the farmhouse remains at Llethr-Mawr (PRN 49757) and Ty-Uchaf (PRN 49774) and Coed-y-brain (PRN 49766) have long since been abandoned.

Several cottage sites (PRNs 49779, 49761) followed a similar fate and were abandoned around the turn of the century. These may have been the dwellings of landless labourers living on a wage or poor peasants assisted by employment on larger farms.

Placenames given on the Llanddeusant Parish tithe apportionment (1841?) imply the presence of further archaeological features, notably a standing stone (PRN 8141), and two possible round barrow sites (PRNs 8139; 8232). No above ground evidence of any such features was identified during the archaeological farm visit. Nevertheless, the potential for buried archaeological remains should not be overlooked in this instance.

No known archaeology was identified on the third holding, a small land parcel on the western side of Black Mountain and it was not seen during the archaeological farm visit. It lies on the border of The Black Mountain- Y Mynydd Ddu Historic Landscape Character Area: 240.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Nantyrodyn Farm lies with an area of high landscape value. It occupies the western fringes of the Brecon Beacons National Park and falls within the Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai registered landscape of outstanding historic interest (CCW/Cadw 1998). This area has been further assessed as part of the historic landscape characterisation project, which recognises the unique historic landscape components, which make a specific area distinctive. Future management should be in keeping with the policies of the Brecon Beacons National Park, and the historic landscape character conservation priorities.

Field boundaries are an important aspect of landscape character. It is important that field boundaries at Nantyrodyn are maintained in a sustainable manner using materials and techniques, which are faithful to those of their original construction.

Nantyrodyn is characterised by a large number of domestic buildings, which are now in various stages of preservation. These are an important reminder of the changing agricultural landscape and past patterns of land tenure.

PRN 49766 FARMSTEAD. The now abandoned farmstead of Coed-y-brain. Future management of the farmstead should aim to slow down the process of natural decay. This should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the site.

PRN 49227 FARMSTEAD; 49774 FARMSTEAD Nantyrodyn and Ty Ucha farmsteads. The layout of both farmsteads remains largely unchanged since the end of the nineteenth century. The historic appearance of the buildings remains largely intact, and both farmsteads are worthy of preservation as a group. Traditional buildings should be maintained using materials and techniques, which are faithful to those of their original construction. Recommendations on the individual buildings are provided in the gazetteer below. See individual PRNs.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS						
PRN	8139	Site Name	CAE	Grid Reference	SN77042650	
			DOMMEN			
Site Type	ROUND	Period	Post			
	BARROW?;		Medieval			
	MOTTE?					
D • /•						

The fieldname Cae dommen is given on the 1841? Llanddeusant Parish tithe map apportionment. "Dommen" translates literally as mound, and it has been suggested that this may be a reference to a round barrow or a motte.

The field in question was under pasture at the time of the archaeological farm visit. No definable mound, either natural or man-made was observed. The potential for buried archaeological remains surviving here should not be overlooked however.

Recommendations

Although no above ground remains of this feature have been identified, there remains potential for buried archaeological remains in this field. Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for information if anything of archaeological interest is identified within this field in future.

Site Category C

PRN	8141	Site Name	CAE MAEN	Grid Reference	SN77162677
			DRAW		
Site Type	STANDING	Period	Post		
	STONE?		Medieval		

Description

The field name Cae maen draw is given on the 1841? Llanddeusant Parish tithe map and apportionment. The "maen" placename element translates directly as stone and is assumed to represent the former site of a prehistoric standing stone. The present landowner who has a long family history at Nant-yr-odyn has no knowledge of a standing stone at this location, and no sign of a standing stone was identified during the archaeological farm visit.

The field in question was under pasture at the time of the archaeological farm visit. A large oval boulder, was recently moved to the edge of the field. The rounded shape of this stone would contradict an interpretation as a former standing stone. An alternative explanation of the placename could be as a reflection of the rocky nature of the land.

Recommendations

Although no above ground remains of this feature have been identified, there remains potential for buried archaeological remains in this field. Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for information if anything of archaeological interest is identified within this field in future.

Site Category C

PRN	8232	Site Name	CAE GARN	Grid Reference	SN77102677
Site Type	BARROW?	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The fieldname Cae garn is given on the 1841? Llanddeusant Parish tithe map and apportionment. The "garn" element of the placename translates as cairn or heap of stones, and it has been suggested that this may be a reference to a prehistoric round barrow.

The field in question was under pasture at the time of the archaeological farm visit. No evidence of a possible round barrow was observed at this location. A number rock outcrops and boulders were noted within the field and the name could alternatively be a reference to its rocky character. The potential for buried archaeological remains surviving here should not be overlooked however.

Recommendations

Although no above ground remains of this feature have been identified, there remains potential for buried archaeological remains in this field. Cambria Archaeology would be grateful for information if anything of archaeological interest is identified within this field in future.

PRN	49227	Site Name	NANTYRODYN	Grid	SN76932657
				Reference	
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Nantyrodyn farmstead is situated approximately 0.7km to the north of Cross Inn in Carmarthenshire. The "odyn" element of the placename is represented by a fine surviving lime kiln (PRN 49231), which lies just a few metres to the west of the farmstead complex. Its survival is unusual when modern agricultural practices are often responsible for the loss of such features.

The farmhouse occupies a roadside position with a range of agricultural buildings (PRNs 49228, 49229) parallel to, but set back from the road and defining a rectangular farmyard. It remains in active use today.

The tithe map of 1841? shows three rectangular buildings at Nant-yr-odyn in an arrangement not dissimilar to that seen today, although an outlying agricultural building (PRN 49756) depicted to the southwest has since been lost. The first detailed accurate map is the Ordnance Survey, 25 inches to a mile map of 1887. This layout appears comparatively unchanged from that seen today. A possible horse engine (PRN 49230) is identified to the rear of agricultural building (PRN 49228).

A complex of modern agricultural buildings has since been added to the west of the historic farmstead and now obscures the site of the horse engine.

The layout of the Nant-yr-Odyn farmstead remains largely unchanged since the end of the nineteenth century. The historic appearance of the buildings also remains largely intact, and they are worthy of preservation as a group. The farm buildings, although in active use are in need of attention in order to be brought back into a stable condition necessary for their long term survival.

Recommendations

The relatively complete and unmodified nature of the farmstead ensures that it is worthy of preservation as a group. Traditional buildings should be maintained using materials and techniques, which are faithful to those of their original construction. Recommendations on the individual buildings are provided in the gazetteer below. See individual PRNs.

Site	С
Category	

PRN	49228	Site Name	NANTYRODYN	Grid	SN76912659
				Reference	
Site	COMBINATION	Period	Post Medieval		
Туре	FARM BUILDING				

This two storey combiation farm building occupies the western side of the farmyard at Nantyrodyn farmstead (PRN 49227) and abuts cart shed (PRN 49229) to the north. It first appears on the tithe map of 1841? and is likely to be of an early-mid nineteenth century date. It measures approximately 16m N-S by 6m E-W, and is of uncoursed stone rubble construction, with a pitched slate roof. It is divided internally into two units; a threshing barn to the south and a cow shed to the north.

The front (east) wall faces onto the farmyard. A large barn door occupies the centre of the threshing barn. A smaller door faces this in the rear wall. This arrangement would have allowed carts inside the barn to enable unloading of unthreshed sheaves. The smaller door opposite might typically be described as a winnowing door and would have allowed a through draught to enable the separation of wheat from chaff (Wiliam 1986, 155). A possible horse engine (PRN 49230) is seen to the west of the threshing barn on the 1887, 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. This may have provided power for threshing and winnowing. A cow shed lies to the north of this and is separated by a modern brick partition wall. Three evenly spaced doorways in the front provide the only access to this part of the building. Door openings are characterised by brick dressings and segmental brick heads and all feature heavy wooden panel doors. Two modern steel framed windows have been added at upper level. The building is much modified internally and is now open to the roof. Joist slots in the north gable end indicate that the cow shed at least was originally lofted. This arrangement is typical as threshing barns were usually accompanied by considerable loft space, for the storage of grain and straw. This could have been accessed by a wooden ladder from the threshing floor. Modern stall partitions occupy the cow shed interior and none of the historic internal arrangements survive.

This building is now in a poor condition. The roof is the principal area of concern. Several slates are loose, and large holes have appeared above the cow shed. Water ingress is promoting rot in the roof timbers. The historic appearance of this building remains largely intact. It makes an important contribution to the group value of the farmstead and should be preserved.

Recommendations

The landowner is keen to carry out restoration work to the roof of this building. This is to be welcomed. Materials and techniques used should be compatible with those of its original construction. The original roof timbers should be retained as far as is practically possible.

A preliminary archaeological record was made during the call out visit. This comprised notes, an annotated sketch plan and some digital photos. It is recommended that further recording should be made before and after any restoration works in order to enhance the existing record of the structure. Some guidelines on the general photographic survey of buildings are attached.

Site Category С



Plate 1- front elevation of the combination farm building (PRN 49228) at Nantyrodyn farmstead.

PRN	49229	Site Name	NANTYRODYN	Grid	SN76912660
				Reference	
Site Type	CART SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

This cart shed abutts the north wall of combination farm building (PRN 49228) at Nantyrodyn farmstead (PRN 49227). A vertical butt joint with the north gable end of the neighbouring combination farm building indicates that it is a later addition to the range. It can first be positively identified on the 1887, 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map and is likely to be of a later nineteenth century date.

It measures approximately 3m N-S by 6m E-W and is of uncoursed stone rubble construction, with red brick quoins and a pitched slate roof.

It follows a simple construction. The front elevation faces onto the farmyard and is open at both levels. The loft is accessed through a doorway up a set of stone steps in the north gable end. The ground floor would have served as a cart shed, whilst the upper level was probably used for the storage of hay in a manner reminiscent of the linhays if south-west England (Wiliam, E 1986, 113).

It is currently in a poor condition. Some roof slates have become displaced and are exposing the roof timbers, which are showing signs of rot.

The significance of the cart shed as a historic buildings in its own right is added to by its contribution to the group value of the farmstead as a whole. It would be a great loss if it were allowed to deteriorate further.

Recommendations

The landowner is keen to carry out restoration work to the roof of this building. This is to be welcomed. Materials and techniques used should be compatible with those of its original construction. The original roof timbers should be retained as far as practically possible.

A preliminary archaeological record was made during the call out visit. This comprised notes, an annotated sketch plan and some digital photos. It is recommended that further recording should be made before and after any restoration works in order to enhance the existing record of the structure. Some guidelines on the general photographic survey of buildings are attached.

Site Category С



Plate 2- the cart shed (PRN 49229) at Nantyrodyn farmstead

PRN	49230	Site Name	NANTYRODYN	Grid	SN76902658
Site Type	HORSE ENGINE?	Period	Post Medieval	Reference	

A circular feature approximately 5m in diameter, and indicated by a dashed line is seen attached to the west wall of the threshing barn (PRN 49228) at Nantyrodyn farmstead (PRN 49227) on the 1887 1:2500 First Edition Ordnance Survey map. This may be a horse engine. Horse-operated gearing was a common method for providing power to barn machinery for threshing or winnowing from the early nineteenth century up until the late 1920s (Wiliam 1986, 174). The feature is absent from later map sources. Modern agricultural buildings have since been built at this location.

Recommendations

The site now lies beneath modern agricultural buildings. No specific management recommendations can be made in this instance.

Site	С
Category	

PRN	49231	Site Name	NANTYRODYN	Grid	SN76872655
				Reference	
Site Type	LIME KILN	Period	Post Medieval		

This well preserved lime kiln occupies a streamside location approximately 40m to the west of Nantyrodyn farmstead (PRN 49227). No specific cartographic or documentary evidence relating to this particular kiln is known, and it could date from anywhere between the late 16th and early 19th century.

It is set into a steep earth bank above a natural bend in the stream, and comprises a 5m diameter circular bank of earth and stone construction, enclosing a 3m diameter stone lined kiln pot. The drawing hole faces down-slope to the north.

It is well preserved and mostly in a stable condition. The kiln pot remains open to a depth of about 0.5m, with the internal stone lining apparently stable. The drawing hole has slumped slightly although this also remains clearly visible. The site lies at the western end of a small fenced enclosure, which is used occasionally as a holding pen for sheep. It is periodically grazed and was under a stable grass sward at the time of the archaeological farm visit. No specific threats were observed from the current management regime, although some trees have become rooted around the site. A mature ash occupies the centre of the kiln pot, and appears to be stable, with no risk of falling in the foreseeable future. Some younger trees are also rooted in the body of the kiln. Most of these pose no significant threat. The largest threat is through scouring during flooding, which is gradually undermining the west side of the structure. A young tree, leaning outwards here, threatens to uproot this part of the kiln if it is not prevented from falling naturally.

It is a relatively rare and well preserved example of a flare kiln, which are so called because the fire is allowed to die down before the lime is extracted, and should be preserved.

Recommendations

The kiln would benefit from some active management of the tree growth around the site. The unstable young tree growing out of the western bank of the structure should be cut off above the roots and spot treated to prevent re-growth. This will prevent uprooting from damaging this part of the structure. Ideally the other young trees should also be removed and treated. This will enhance the visibility of the site and reduce the risk of future damage through root growth or falling trees. Mature trees should be monitored for signs of instability.

Site C Category



Plate 3- the limekiln (PRN 49231) at Nantyrodyn farmstead.

PRN	49756	Site Name	NANTYRODYN	Grid Reference	SN76912657
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

This agricultural building is seen to the southwest of Nantyrodyn farmstead (PRN 49227) on the 1841? Llanddeusant Parish tithe map. It is absent from later map sources. Modern agricultural buildings have since been added at this location and no above ground evidence of this building survives today.

Recommendations

С

No specific management recommendations can be made in this instance.

Site Category

PRN	49757	Site Name	LLETHR- MAWR	Grid Reference	SN74232660
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post		
			Medieval;		
			Modern		

Llethr-mawr farmstead is situated on a southwest facing slope above the Nant Cae Forris. The present-day farmstead of Llethr-mawr bears little resemblance to that seen on the historic maps. All traditional agricultural buildings have since been lost, and the farmhouse, in the later nineteenth century Carmarthenshire vernacular style, is the only surviving element.

It is first seen on the 1841? Llandeusant Parish tithe map and three buildings are shown haphazardly arranged around a farmyard. This representation is somewhat schematic however and may not be an accurate representation of the farmstead at this time. By the time of the 1907, 6 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. Two parallel ranges (PRNs 49758, 49759) are shown facing each other across a rectangular farmyard, with a smaller building (PRN 49760) a few metres to the southeast.

Although no above ground traces of the traditional buildings survive, there remains good potential for the preservation of buried archaeological remains here.

Recommendations

Recommendations on the individual buildings are provided in the gazetteer below. See individual PRNs.

PRN	49758	Site Name	LLETHR- MAWR	Grid Reference	SN74232660
Site Type	COTTAGE; AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

This rectangular building range is first seen on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map, occupying the northwestern side of the farmyard at Llethr-Mawr farmstead (PRN 47957). Only the farmhouse, which forms the southeastern part of the range survives today. A modern extension has been added to the west of this on the site of the earlier buildings.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations can be made in this instance.

Site Category C

PRN	49759	Site Name	LLETHR- MAWR	Grid Reference	SN74172658
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This rectangular building range is seen on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map defining the southwestern side of the farmyard at Llethr-Mawr farmstead (PRN 47957). It may have incorporated smaller buildings which are seen at this location on the 1887, 25 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. No above ground traces of the building survive today, although there is potential for buried archaeological remains surviving here.

Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological remains, no ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the area of the farmyard.

PRN	47960	Site Name	LLETHR- MAWR	Grid Reference	SN74182658
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

This small rectangular building is seen on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map to the south of the farmyard at Llethr-Mawr farmstead (PRN 47957). A modern concrete agricultural building has since been added at this location and nothing of the earlier building survives.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations can be made in this instance.

Site Category C

PRN	49761	Site Name	NANT-IFAN	Grid Reference	SN77052692
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Little remains of this roadside cottage named Nant-Ifan, which was abandoned around the turn of the century. It is first seen on the 1831, 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map, although is not shown in accurate detail until the 1887, 25 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. A smaller outbuilding (PRN 49762) is seen to the southwest at this time. Both buildings are recorded as abandoned by the time of the 1907 Ordnance Survey map.

The site is fenced off now and lies within dense woodland. Only the low rubble footings of the building survive. Further details on its original appearance are not known.

Recommendations

Built and buried archaeological remains should be protected. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the woodland. It is not known if any active management is proposed for this area of woodland. If any works are to be undertaken, then care should be taken not to damage any built structural remains.

PRN	49762	Site Name	NANT-IFAN	Grid Reference	SN77032691
Site Type	OUTBUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

This small outbuilding lies to the southwest of Nant-Ifan cottage (PRN 47961). It is first seen on the 1887, 25 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey, and is shown to be abandoned by the time of the 1907 Ordnance Survey map. Only the low rubble wall footings of the building survive today. The nature of its original appearance and function are not known. The site is fenced off now and lies within dense woodland.

Recommendations

Built and buried archaeological remains should be protected. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the woodland. It is not known if any active management is proposed for this area of woodland. If any works are to be undertaken, then care should be taken not to damage and built structural remains.

Site Category C

PRN	49763	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN77012681
Site Type	FOOTBRIDGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A footbridge marked on the 1887 25 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. No traces of the footbridge survive today. It has since been replaced by a stone built single span road bridge, which remains in active use today.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

PRN	49764	Site Name		Grid	SN77372659;
				Reference	SN77112689
Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Medieval		

This trackway, which is first seen on the 1841? Llandeussant Parish tithe map leads from Llethrmawr farmstead (PRN 49757) in a general northwesterly direction for a distance of approximately 500m before meeting a road. For much of its length it is visible as a hollow way, defined by hedge banks on either side. It is now redundant and heavily overgrown for much of its length.

Recommendations

The field boundaries, which line this trackway should be maintained in a sustainable manner.



Plate 4- trackway PRN 49764 leading west from Llethr-Mawr farmstead.

PRN	49765	Site Name	LLETHR-	Grid Reference	SN77342658
			MAWR		
Site Type	WELL	Period	Post		
			Medieval		

This small well, which lies approximately 50m to the east of Llethr-mawr farmstead (PRN 49757), is first marked on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map. No built structural remains survive at this location today. The well is visible as a roughly circular depression, approximately three metres in diameter which is partially silted up. It lies within a pasture field and the surrounding area is grazed periodically.

Recommendations

The original profile and appearance of the well should be preserved.

Site Category C

PRN	49766	Site Name	COED-Y- BRAIN	Grid Reference	SN74932581
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Coed-y-bran farmstead is now ruinous, having been abandoned during the early years of the twentieth century. It follows a simple plan, which consists of two parallel building ranges (PRNs 49767-49773), aligned north-south, which face each other across a rectangular farmyard. The farmhouse (PRN 49772) occupies the southern unit of the eastern range, and is positioned next to the farmyard entrance.

Map evidence indicates that this basic pattern was already in place by the time of the 1831 Ordnance Survey map. It appears to have changed little during the working life of the farmstead. The only notable change to the layout is seen on the 1907, 6 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map. A small rectangular building is added to the northeast of the eastern range at this time, forming an L-shape. This has since been lost and the farmstead has reverted back to its original plan.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should aim to slow down the process of natural decay. This should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the farmstead.

PRN	49767	Site Name	COED-Y- BRAIN	Grid Reference	SN74922582
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING?	Period	Post Medieval		

This agricultural building forms the core of a long building range, which occupies the western side of a long rectangular farmyard at Coed-y-bran farmstead (PRN 49766). It is first seen on the 1831, 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map and is likely to be of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date. It has long since been abandoned and is now a roofless ruin.

It is of one and a half storeys beneath a gabled roof and measures 12m N-S by 6m E-W, with walls averaging 0.5m thick. It has long since been abandoned and is now a roofless ruin. Only the stone rubble walls remain, and these stand to near full height.

The east wall is pierced by doorways at either end. The northern doorway is wide enough to accommodate a cart, whilst the southern doorway is of standard width. This opens out onto a narrow lean-to (PRN 49768), which is a later addition to the range. A pair of standard width doorways face these openings in the west lateral wall. A small splayed window pierces the south gable end at upper level. Opposite this in the north gable end is an upper storey loading door.

The floor of the building is now covered by a low spread of building debris and nothing of the historic internal layout can be made out. Displaced floor joists indicate that the southern two thirds of the building at least were originally lofted. The loading door in the north gable end of the building indicates some communication with the abutting agricultural building (PRN 49768) to the north at upper level. Interpreting the original function of the building is problematical due to the lack of available evidence. Its size and the positioning of door and window openings show similarities to a type of combination farm buildings comprising a threshing barn, with upper loft which is common throughout southwest Wales from the late eighteenth to early twentieth centuries.

No specific threats to the long-term survival of the ruin were identified during the archaeological farm visit, although water ingress continues to wash out masonry bonds in the exposed walls. Some young trees occupy the interior of the structure, and vegetation is becoming established on the wall tops in places.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should aim to slow down the process of natural decay. This should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the farmstead.



Plate 5- combination farm building (PRN 49767) and lean to (PRN 49768) at Coed-y-brain from the northeast.



Plate 6- combination farm building (PRN 49767) and lean to (PRN 49769) at Coed-y-brain from the west.

PRN	49768	Site Name	COED-Y-	Grid Reference	SN74922582
			BRAIN		
Site Type	LEAN TO	Period	Post		
			Medieval		

This lean to abutts the east wall of combination farm building (PRN 49767), which defines part of the western side of the farmyard at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766). Although the farmstead is first seen on the 1831, 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map, this lean-to first appears on the 1891, 6 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. It has long since been abandoned and is now a roofless ruin.

It is a single storey building, of a simple build with a single door opening in the centre of the east lateral wall. The low single pitch roof forms a continuation of the eastern pitch of the combination farm building (PRN 49766), which it abuts. The original function of this building is not known.

No specific threats to the long-term survival of the remains of this building were identified during the archaeological farm visit, although water ingress continues to wash out masonry bonds in the exposed walls.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should aim to slow down the process of natural decay. This should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the farmstead.

PRN	49769	Site Name	COED-Y- BRAIN	Grid Reference	SN74912581
Site Type	LEAN TO	Period	Post Medieval		

This small lean to abuts the west wall of combination farm building (PRN 49767) at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766). The lean to does not appear on historic map sources, and its origins are not known. It has long since been abandoned and is now a roofless ruin.

It is a single storey building, of a simple build and measures approximately 3m by 3m in plan. The low single pitch roof forms a continuation of the eastern pitch of the combination farm building, which it abuts. A narrow door opening occupies the centre of the north wall. No window openings were observed, although the north wall has since collapsed. Decaying roof timbers can be observed around the site. The original function of the building is not known.

No specific threats to the long-term survival of the ruin were identified during the archaeological farm visit, although water ingress continues to wash out masonry bonds in the exposed walls. Vegetation is also becoming established on the walls.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should aim to slow down the process of natural decay. This should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the farmstead.

PRN	49770	Site Name	COED-Y- BRAIN	Grid Reference	SN74922583
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

This agricultural building forms the northern part of a long building range, which defines the western side of the farmyards at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766). It abuts combination farm building (PRN 49767) to the south. It first appears on the 1831, 1 inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map, and is at least of an early nineteenth century date. Like other buildings at Coed-y-bran, it has long since been abandoned and is now a roofless ruin.

The building is situated along a natural slope in such a way that access could be gained through a doorway in the north gable end at upper level, or from the farmyard at lower level. A single wide entrance in the east lateral wall provides access from the farmyard. Opposite this in the west lateral wall is a narrow door opening. The building is linked internally to combination farm building to the south by a narrow doorway at upper level. A similar loading door faces this in the north gable end. The interior is covered in a low rubble spread, and nothing of any internal partitions, or original arrangements can be made out. The originally function of the building is not known, although it may have served as a cart shed, with a granary or storage space at upper level.

Some mature trees have become established around the site. On the whole, these appear to be in a stable condition, although one specimen has fallen and is now resting on the east lateral wall of the building. Some younger trees and saplings are also established here.

Recommendations

The fallen tree, which is resting on the east lateral wall should be cut off and removed in order to relieve weight on the already weakened structure.

Future management of the site should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the site.

PRN	49771	Site Name	COED-Y- BRAIN	Grid Reference	SN74922583
Site Type	LEAN TO	Period	Post Medieval		

This small ruinous lean to abuts the east lateral wall of agricultural building (PRN 49770) at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766). It does not appear on historic map sources and its origins are not known. It is now a roofless ruin

It measures approximately 4m by 3m on an E-W alignment. Only the low rubble wall footings survive. Further interpretation was not possible.

No specific threats were observed from the current management regime.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the site.

PRN	49772	Site Name	COED-Y-	Grid Reference	SN74932581
			BRAIN		
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	Post		
			Medieval		

This one and a half storey farmhouse comprises the southern unit of a two building range, which occupies the eastern side of the farmyard at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766). It abuts a possible cart shed (PRN 49773) to the north. The farmhouse is first seen on the 1831, 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map and is at least of an early nineteenth century date. It was abandoned sometime after 1907 and is now a roofless ruin. It is rectangular in plan and measures about 10m N-S by 6m E-W. It is of stone rubble construction, with walls averaging 0.5m thick and roughly squared quoins.

The front (west) wall of the farmhouse faces onto a rectangular farmyard. This wall does not survive beyond ground floor height. A central doorway is flanked on either side by rectangular windows. In contrast the rear (east) wall survives to full height indicating a one and a half storey design. A splayed rectangular, ground floor window is offset from centre to the north. A smaller splayed window is offset from centre to the south at upper level. What survives of the south wall is dominated by a wide fireplace, which is offset from centre to the east. It is about two metres wide and one and a half metres high, with a wooden lintel. Built structural remains do not survive beyond ground floor level here. A small fireplace, only about a metre wide can be seen offset from centre to the west in the north end of the building. Much of this end of the building is now obscured by rubble from the inward collapse of the north wall. The low rubble spread, which now covers the interior of the building, is masking any internal partition walls and prevents an interpretation of the original internal layout.

No specific threats to the long-term survival of the farmhouse were identified during the archaeological farm visit, although water ingress continues to wash out masonry bonds in the exposed walls. Some moss and ferns have become rooted in the masonry, and a small ash tree now occupies the interior.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the site.

PRN	49773	Site Name	COED-Y- BRAIN	Grid Reference	SN74942582
Site Type	CART SHED?	Period	Post Medieval		

This possible cart shed abuts the north wall of the farmhouse (PRN 49772) at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766). It was abandoned sometime after 1907 and is now a roofless ruin. It is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 7m N-S by 5m E-W. It is of stone rubble construction with roughly squared quoins. Walls average 0.5m thick.

A pair of wide cart entrances penetrates the front (west) lateral wall. No other openings were observed at ground floor level. An upper storey loading door penetrates the north gable end at upper level. This would indicate that the building was originally lofted, although none of the floor joists survive.

No specific threats were observed during the archaeological farm visit. Some trees have become established around the site. One specimen is growing out of the wall footings in the west lateral wall. Moss and ferns are growing out of the masonry in places.

Recommendations

Future management of the site should involve the monitoring and management of existing trees in order to prevent damage to structural remains by root damage or falling trees. Young trees should be prevented from becoming established over the site. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within the enclosed area of the site.



Plate 7- front (west) elevation of the farmhouse (PRN 49772) at Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49766)

PRN	49774	Site Name	TY-UCHA;	Grid Reference	SN75172588
			TIR-HOWEL		
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post		
			Medieval		

Ty-ucha or Tir-Howel farmstead was abandoned sometime around the middle of the twentieth century. It follows a variation on the common L-shape plan. A narrow rectangular yard is flanked to the west by agricultural buildings (PRNs 49776, 49777), with the farmhouse (PRN 49775) at the head of the yard to the north. The farmhouse is now derelict having long since fallen out of use. Contrastingly Some of the agricultural buildings show signs of recent agricultural use.

The 1831 Old Series Ordnance Survey map and the 1841? Llanddeusant Parish tithe map show a general farmstead layout not dissimilar to that seen today, although some subtle differences can be observed.

The farmhouse is not shown in its present square form until the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. The earlier maps indicate a longer building at this location, and the present farmhouse may have replaced an earlier dwelling on the same site.

The agricultural building range also appears in its present form for the first time on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, and it appears to have been extended sometime between 1841 and 1891. A combination farm building comprising a cart shed and stable (PRN 49777) was probably added to the northern end of a pre-existing threshing barn (PRN 49776) between these dates. The brick door and window dressings and limestone ashlar quoins would appear to support a later nineteenth century date for this addition.

Recommendations

The relatively complete and unmodified nature of the farmstead ensures that it is worthy of preservation as a group. Traditional buildings should be maintained using materials and techniques, which are faithful to those of their original construction. Recommendations on the individual buildings are provided in the gazetteer below. See individual PRNs.

PRN	49775	Site Name	TY-UCHA; TIR-HOWEL	Grid Reference	SN75172588
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	Post Medieval		

This farmhouse occupies the northern end of the farmyard at Ty Ucha farmstead (PRN 49774), and faces onto combination farm building (PRN 49777) to the southeast. It is a typical example of the Carmarthenshire farmhouse built in the mid-nineteenth to early-twentieth century vernacular style, and is first seen on the 1891, 6 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map. It is now derelict having been abandoned during the first half of the twentieth century.

It is square in plan, measuring 10m N-E by 10m S-W and stands to two storeys beneath a pitched slate roof. It is of roughly coursed local rubble construction, with limestone ashlar quoins. Opposing chimneys, of limestone ashlar construction occupy the northwest and southeast gable ends of the building.

The farmhouse faces southwest onto the corner of a farm building range. The façade comprises three bays, with a central door flanked by windows on each side, and three windows at first floor level. A distinguishing feature is the gabled porch, with arched entrance, built entirely of limestone ashlar, with a slate gabled roof. The rear wall faces northeast onto a steep earth bank. At ground floor level a doorway lies northwest of centre. Two windows are symmetrically spaced on either side. First floor windows are evenly spaced directly above. The only opening in the southeast wall is a small rectangular window at ground floor level offset from centre towards the northeast. The northwest wall is also pierced by a single rectangular window at ground floor level, towards the southwest of the building. The fabric of the building would support a later rather than earlier nineteenth century date and features such as the brick segmental arches and the framed quoins are typical of this period. The interior of the farmhouse was not seen during the archaeological farm visit, although at least four downstairs rooms are arranged around a central passage. The staircase remains intact in this central passage facing the front door.

The farmhouse is now derelict and falling into disrepair. Several of the roof tiles are missing and water ingress is promoting rot in the roof timbers and floor joists, as well as washing out masonry bonds in the exposed wall tops. Vegetation growth is an increasing problem and ivy has become established around the façade. This threatens to erode lime mortar masonry bonds and de-stabilise masonry. Some young trees have become established in the wall tops. The combined threats of root growth and added weight are potentially damaging to structural integrity. A fallen tree to the rear of the house is leaning on the roof, adding weight to the structure.

The farmhouse makes a fundamental contribution to the group value of the farmstead. It would be a great loss if it were allowed to deteriorate further.

Recommendations

Ideally, the farmhouse should be brought back into a stable condition necessary for its long-term survival. Materials used should be compatible with those of its original construction.

If restoration works are not to be undertaken, then future management should aim to slow down the process of building decay. Vegetation growth on the structure should be controlled. Ivy and other vegetation growth, which is potentially damaging to masonry bonds should be cut off at the roots and spot treated to prevent re-growth. The fallen tree at the rear of the building should be cut off at the roots in order to relieve the weight on the roof structure. The trees, which surround the site, should continue to be monitored for signs of instability in future.



Plate 8- the farmhouse (PRN 49775) and agricultural buildings (49776, 49777) at Ty Ucha farmstead (PRN 49774).



Plate 9- combination farm building PRN 49777 at Ty Ucha farmstead (PRN 49774)

PRN	49776	Site Name	TY-UCHA; TIR-HOWEL	Grid Reference	SN75162586
Site Type	THRESHING BARN	Period	Post Medieval		

This threshing barn is the southernmost of two buildings, together with combination farm building (PRN 49777) which form a long range at Ty Ucha farmstead (PRN 49774). It is first seen on the 1831 1 inch to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map and may be of an early nineteenth century date.

It is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 14m N-S by 6m E-W. It is of local stone rubble construction with roughly squared quoins. The walls average 0.5m thick.

A large barn doorway dominates the centre of the front (east) lateral wall. To the north of this is a standard width doorway with stone voussoirs. A single standard width doorway, also with stone voussoirs penetrates the rear (west) of the building, opposite the large granary door. The south and north gable walls are blind. None of the historic internal arrangements survive at ground floor level, and this part of the building has most recently been used for bedding down cattle. The arrangement of the building is typical of the threshing barn, with a tall door at the end of the threshing floor and storage bays to either side. A loft occupies the space to the north of the threshing floor and would have provided additional storage space.

The threshing barn is comparatively unmodified from its original appearance, and is a good example of its type. A modern door opening has been added in the north of the rear wall, whilst the original narrow stone voussoired opening opposite has since been blocked up. It remains in a stable condition, although the eastern pitch of the roof is no longer weatherproof and water ingress is promoting rot in the battens. The threshing barn makes an important contribution to the group value of the farmstead. It would be a great loss if it were allowed to deteriorate.

Recommendations

The landowner has expressed a desire to replace slates and roof battens on the eastern pitch of the roof. The building makes an important contribution to the group value of the farmstead, and this is to be welcomed. It is important that materials and techniques used are compatible with those of the original construction. The original roof timbers should be retained as far as practically possible.

A preliminary archaeological record was made during the call out visit. This comprised notes, an annotated sketch plan and some digital photos. It is recommended that further recording should be made before and after any restoration works in order to enhance the existing record of the structure. Some guidelines on the general photographic survey of buildings are attached.

	Site Maine	TIR-HOWEL	Griu Kelerence	51(75102507
COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		
	COMBINATION	COMBINATION Period	COMBINATION Period TIR-HOWEL Post	COMBINATION Period Post

This combination farm building abuts threshing barn (PRN 49776) to the south and forms part of a long building range, which defines the western side of Ty Ucha farmstead (PRN 49774). It forms a vertical butt joint with the threshing barn to the south and is a later addition to the range. It is first seen on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map and is of a mid-late nineteenth century date.

It is rectangular in plan and measures approximately 10m N-S by 6m E-W. It is of limestone rubble construction with roughly squared limestone ashlar quoins. Walls are approximately 0.5m thick. It is built to one and a half storeys beneath a slate gabled roof. The building is terraced into bank, which rises around the north end. This allows access to be gained to both the lower and upper floors from ground level outside.

The front (east) elevation is pierced by a broad, elliptical cart entrance to the left, with a narrow stable door, and window to the right. All other elevations are free from openings except the north gable end, which is penetrated by a narrow door, which provides access to the loft at upper level. All openings are characterised by red brick dressings, which would support a later rather than mid-nineteenth century date. The heavy wooden panel doors remain intact.

At lower level, the building is divided into two units, a cart shed and a stable. Some of the original stable partitions survive against the north gable wall. The cart shed and loft interiors were not seen during the archaeological farm visit.

The building, which does not appear to have been used recently remains in a reasonable condition. The roof is a concern, however and slates are missing from the eastern pitch. It is no longer weatherproof and water ingress is promoting rot in the battens. Young trees are growing out of the wall footings in the northeast corner of the building. These are potentially threatening to the structural integrity of the walls.

The building fell out use long ago and does not appear to have been modified from its original appearance. It makes an important contribution to the group value of the farmstead and should not be allowed to deteriorate further.

Recommendations

The landowner has expressed a desire to replace slates and roof battens on the eastern pitch of the roof. The building makes an important contribution to the group value of the farmstead, and this is to be welcomed. It is important that materials and techniques used are compatible with those of the original construction. The original roof timbers should be retained as far as practically possible.

A preliminary archaeological record was made during the call out visit. This comprised notes, an annotated sketch plan and some digital photos. It is recommended that further recording should be made before and after any restoration works in order to enhance the existing record of the structure.

Some guidelines on the general photographic survey of buildings are attached.

The young trees growing out of the wall footings in the northeast corner of the building should be cut off at the roots and spot treated to prevent re-growth.

Site Category C

PRN	49778	Site Name	TY-UCHA; TIR-HOWEL	Grid Reference	SN75202589
Site Type	OUTBUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This small outbuilding lies approximately 35m to the east of the farmhouse (PRN 49775) at Ty-Ucha farmstead (PRN 49774). It is situated on the edge of the garden enclosure and measures approximately 3m N-S by 2m E-W. It is now redundant and roofless, having fallen out of use when the farmstead was abandoned. It is not seen on any of the historic maps, although this may be a product of its small size. It may be of a nineteenth century date.

It is accessed through a narrow door opening in the west lateral wall. No internal arrangements survive and the original function of the building is not known. One suggestion is that it may originally have served as a Ty-Bach.

No specific threats were identified during the archaeological farm visit, although water ingress continues to wash out masonry bonds in the exposed walls.

Recommendations

The outbuilding should be retained. Vegetation should not be allowed to obscure the site.

PRN	49779	Site Name	PANT-YR- ARW	Grid Reference	SN74532626
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

This cottage, occupies high ground on a northwest facing slope of Rhiwiau Hill. It is first seen on the Llandeusant Parish tithe map (1841?), and is abandoned by the time of the 1891 Ordnance Survey map where it is named Pant-yr-arw.

Only the low spread stone rubble wall footings survive today, defining a two unit building measuring approximately 18m N-S by 6m E-W. Gable chimneys at either end of the southern unit, identify this as the cottage. The original function of the adjoining unit to the north is not known. It could either have served a domestic or agricultural function.

The cottage lies within a pasture field, which is grazed periodically. Scattered trees have become established around the site.

Pant-yr-arw may have its origins in the 18th or early 19th century, when marginal land was becoming increasingly populated during a time of rising population. Such settlements were often short lived and like many others, Pant-yr-arw was abandoned towards the end of the nineteenth century.

Recommendations

The remnant walls of the cottage should be retained as a feature of the historic landscape. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within 5 metres of any built structural remains. Vegetration and tree growth should be controlled in order to prevent it from obscuring the site.



Plate 10- Pant-yr-arw cottage (PRN 49779), looking south.

PRN	49780	Site Name	PANT-YR- ARW	Grid Reference	SN74532628
Site Type	OUTBUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

This small outbuilding is situated approximately 10m to the north of Pant-yr-arw cottage (PRN 49779), on the northwest facing slopes of Rhiwiau Hill. It is first seen on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, although was apparently abandoned by this time.

Only the low spread rubble wall footings survive today, defining an area approximately 4m N-S by 4m E-W.

The outbuilding lies within a pasture field, which is grazed periodically. Some young trees have become established here.

Recommendations

The remnant walls of the cottage should be retained as a feature of the historic landscape. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within 5 metres of any built structural remains. Vegetration and tree growth should not be allowed to obscure the site.

Site Category C

PRN	49781	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN74872590
Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This trackway, which is first seen on the tithe map of 1841? leads from Coed-y-brain farmstead (PRN 49774) in a general northerly direction up Rhiwiau Hill. It is now visible as a hollow way, defined by grown out hedge banks on either side. It is largely redundant today, although short sections continue to serve as farm tracks.

Recommendations

The field boundaries, which line this trackway should be maintained in a sustainable manner.

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.

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24th November 2003

This report has been prepared by William Steele

Position Heritage Management Archaeologist

Signature Date

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.....

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













