

TALWRN COCH W/11/2778

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2003/25

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Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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20th February 2003

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By

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CALL OUT VISIT

Following a site visit by a Tir Gofal project officer to the farmstead of Talwrn Coch, a follow up visit by Cambria Archaeology was requested to establish the nature and condition of a potentially interesting field boundary alignment and a farm building and to provide recommendations on the sensitive restoration of both features.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

Talwrn Coch farmstead (SN58086720) is situated to the north of the Nant Rhyd-Rosser watercourse between Rhyd-Rosser and Trefenter. It is accessed by a trackway running from the farmstead northwards to the road. From map evidence there is an interesting curved trackway and boundary walls to the east of the farmstead. This track provides access to cottages to the south west of Talwrn Coch farmstead. This boundary appears to be continued on the ground in field boundaries, to the west, a stretch of road to the north, forming a roughly oval shape with the Nant Rhyd- Rosser along the southern edge. It was thought possible that this boundary might reflect an earlier enclosure, pre-dating the enclosure of the surrounding land.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

There was no visible evidence that the curved field boundaries and trackway were following the line of an earlier earthwork enclosure or are of any unusual construction that might suggest an earlier origin than other field boundaries in the area. The banks are however, noticeably substantial. It therefore remains uncertain what factors may have influenced the development of this apparently anomalous boundary shape. There are therefore no concerns that significant archaeological features will be damaged by the repair and rebuilding of the walls.

The stone walls themselves, run on each side of the track way and are in varying degrees of collapse. In some places the original structure of the walls is visible, consisting of relatively large stones at the base, with smaller stones laid in a herringbone pattern, above. It is understood that the intention is to rebuild the walls and to erect stock proof fencing on both sides. Since they would not originally have been hedged, any scrub, saplings or other vegetation that is adversely affecting the structure of the walls, should be removed and no re-planting should occur.

Assuming that materials and techniques appropriate to the locality are used in the repair of the boundaries, it is recommended that a portion of the boundary that is in relatively good condition be examined as a basis for the repair of the boundary as a whole.

Assuming that the existing width of the track is not altered there are no objections to the route being re-surfaced with Tarmac.

Also included in the Tir Gofal agreement for Talwrn Coch is the renovation of the derelict farm building adjacent to the farmhouse. There are no objections to this building being repaired and

bought back into use for agricultural purposes. It is recommended that materials and techniques appropriate to the area are used and that lime mortar is used in the rebuilding and re-pointing of the walls. Although much of the building appears to be structurally sound, professional advice as to the structural integrity of the front of the building where masonry has collapsed should be sought. Any surviving internal fixtures, fittings or other features should be retained. Modern brick dividing walls within the building can be removed if desired. If possible, any viable roofing timbers should be retained.

It is recommended that a photographic record of the building is made both before and during the renovation work in order to record its original condition and any interesting features and fittings that may come to light during the work. Advice on making a photographic record is included at the end of this report.



Plate 1: The trackway Looking North.



Plate 2: The Trackway Looking South.



Plate 3: Front View of the Farm Building Looking North.



Plate 4: Back View of the Farm Building Looking South.



Plate 5: Detail of Farm Building Showing Collapsed Masonry.

Tir Gofal Traditional Buildings

Requirements for General Photographic Surveys of Buildings

The purpose of the survey is to produce a photographic record of the building prior to any demolition, alterations or renovation being started, as well as recording any fixtures, fittings or features which come to light during the works. This survey may be the only record of the original form of the building available for future reference.

Photographs should be taken using 35mm format colour print film (preferably Kodak or Fuji). ASA 200 film is a good standard for most light conditions but ASA 400 should be used where light conditions are poor. 36 exposure film should be used in all cases and at least one whole film must be exposed. Alternatively, a digital camera may be used. Please contact Cambria Archaeology for further information on the quality of digital image required.

Photographs should be taken of all exterior and interior wall elevations, which are affected by the proposed works together with photographs of the interior roof detail where this is altered. Features of particular interest (e.g. obvious differences in wall makeup, windows and doors wither blocked up or not, fireplaces, timber framing) should also be fully photographed. If available a scale of noted measurement, should be placed within any detailed shots but this is not essential.

A plan of the building is also required to record the direction in which each of the photographs has been taken. Architectural drawings can be used where available or a sketch plan can be produced. Location of reference numbers on the plans should be copied onto the backs of the prints together with brief descriptive details of the location. If using a digital camera this information should be used to name the photographs.

A copy of the survey should be provided to Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA 19 6HU either directly or via the Countryside Council for Wales Tir Gofal Project Officer.

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
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Position : Archaeologist

Signature  Date 11/03/2003

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

Position Head of Heritage Management

Signature L. Austin Date 11/03/03

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