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**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
(Call Out)**

**Prepared for:
Parc Twad
Tir Gofal Reference No: W/11/2860**



**Project Record Number: 44175
Report Number: 2008/49**

**Prepared by
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Call Out Visit

The farm was visited in May 2008 at the request of the Tir Gofal Project Officer to address specific management issues. In particular the restoration of some traditional buildings within the farmstead.

The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

Introduction

Parc Twad is centred on NGR SN24214477, lying within the community of Llandygwydd in Ceredigion, close to the Pembrokeshire border. The landscape surrounding the farm comprises the undulating hills to the north of the Teifi Valley. The early history of the farmstead is not well documented although *Park y Twad* is named in parish records of 1786. Early 19th century maps (Ordnance Surveyors drawings 1814, Ordnance Survey Old Series 1919, Tithe Map 1839) record the farmstead but not in sufficient detail to clarify its early development. What is certain is that the present layout was already established when the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map was published in 1889.

The area has a number of gentry houses, mostly quite modest but a few to a larger scale, with the surrounding landscape having developed a “polite” veneer as characterised by a general landscape trend towards shelter belts plantations and regular large fields.

The tithe map and apportionment of 1839 indicate that Parc Twad was a relatively large freeholding for the time, at 123 acres, when owned by one John Griffiths Esq. The farmstead follows a formal layout with the farm buildings arranged in a U-plan block and the house lying apart to the north. In its present form, the farmstead would seem to represent a later 19th century re-modelling of an earlier 19th century complex, with the use of red brick arches and formal plan suggesting lesser gentry status.

Description

The farmstead has a formal arrangement with the house, brew house and pigsties, in a line to the north of the farm buildings. Buildings are generally of stone and slate roofed construction with red brick arches and door heads and occasional red brick structural walls. Joinery (doors, windows etc.) was originally of an estate red colour, with grey paint dominating later.



Facing south-east towards the pigsties and brew house with the farmhouse to the rear.

On the north east side of the farmyard is a four bay *stock shed*, of stone and slate construction with a brick rear wall, having four large red brick arched openings and facing onto the farmyard. The floor is of red brick construction. No original internal features survive.



The front elevation of the stock shed.

At right angles on the south east side of the yard is a long single pitched *poultry house and shelter shed* range of stone and slate roof construction, also with a red brick rear wall. The range is open fronted, with red brick piers originally closed off with double doors facing onto the farmyard. Few of the double doors now survive and many of the

openings have been blocked in. Internally a line of modern c.1950s cattle stalls back onto the rear wall. At the north-eastern end of this range, is the poultry house of mainly brick construction with several tiers of nesting boxes in the walls. A wide metal framed (c.1950s) window has been inserted into the front wall of this building.



Nesting boxes inside the poultry house.



Facing south along the front wall of the shelter shed.

The principal building of the group is a long stone and slate roofed *barn range* opposite. The range appears to have experienced some remodelling in the later 19th century. It consists of, from the top (north-east):

A *cart house* with joist floor to granary over with external stone steps against the gable end wall giving access to a granary door. Two large red brick arched cart openings face onto the farmyard below.



The front elevation of the cart house. Stone steps to the stable hayloft are visible in the left of picture.

An adjoining stable with hayloft over, separated by a structural stone wall, with a wide doorway and small pane casement window in the front wall and an inserted metal framed window (c.1950s) in the rear wall. The hayloft is accessed externally through a dormer door up a set of stone steps in the front wall.

Next is the threshing barn, separated by a red brick partition, with opposed small doorways, once for hand threshing, and ventilation slits. The OS map of 1889 shows a horse “ginny ring” (now gone) in front of the range. The axle shaft opening survives in the base of the wall to the right of the doorway. Between the two doorways is a slate slab threshing floor. At the upper (north-east) end of this unit is an inserted window opening.



The middle part of the barn range showing the threshing barn to the left and stable to the right.

The lower part of the range is marked by a drop to single storey roof level. It has two inserted standard width doorways in the front wall and one standard width doorway in the rear wall. Any original internal arrangements have been lost and the original function is now difficult to discern, although latterly the building appears to have been used as a cow house. The absence of original doorways suggests that this part of the range would have been accessed from the threshing doors. One possible explanation is that it served as storage bays for crops. Along the front wall of the range are the

walled in remains of a series of evenly spaced rectangular window openings, which could have acted as pitching holes whilst providing added ventilation. Several identical blocked in openings are visible on the opposite (right) side of the threshing doors also.



The lower part of the range. The filled in remains of former openings are visible in the walls.

Adjacent, to the south-west lie the remains of another building the extent of which is identified by its footings and a surviving section of walling. Its original function is no longer known.

Tir Gofal management recommendations

Future management should address how best to maintain the character of the farmstead group as a whole. The principle aim should be to return all traditional buildings to a stable condition (ie. ensuring that roofs are well maintained, and walls are stable and adequately pointed). The secondary aim should be to enhance the historic external character of the buildings by repairing or replacing joinery features as necessary.

The traditional farm buildings at Parc Twad are generally in a reasonable condition although some slates are missing or displaced from the roof of the barn range and the shelter shed opposite, whilst parts of the masonry walls are also in need of consolidation. The roof of the brick pigsty buildings adjoining the brew house is also in need of repair.

Tir Gofal advice advocates the use of materials that match those used originally. Repairs should be undertaken on a like for like basis, modelled on the originals using the same materials and methods of construction.

Principal aim

- **To return all traditional buildings to a stable and weatherproof condition by undertaking roof repairs and masonry consolidation.**

Re-roofing

- Maintain the original roof with patch repairs where possible. Carefully match the original materials used.
- Retain any original detail in any repairs (eg. the style of the ridge tiles or distinctive line of slates hung under the eaves).

Rooflights

The farmer has enquired about replacing roof lights (the stock shed and barn range both have small sheets of glass inserted between the slates in their front roof pitches).

- Although not generally a historic feature on traditional farm buildings, the roof lights at Parc Twad, although unlikely to be part of the original roof construction, are an historic feature. The simple nature of their construction, comprising a sheet of glass inserted into a slate roof in lieu of several individual slates is such that they do not adversely affect the appearance of the building to the extent that a sealed-unit roof light would.
- If the rooflights are to be reinstated, they should be to the same design as the originals. Ideally they should be reinstated in the rear roof pitches in order to minimise visual impact.

Masonry consolidation/ Repointing

- In repairing stonework, take care to match the type of stone, the style of dressing and the method of laying in any new work.
- As a general rule repointing is premature until mortar has weathered back to a depth equivalent to the joint width or is very loose. Repointing should be carried out using a lime mortar mix that closely matches that of the original.

Secondary aim

- **To further enhance the historic character of the buildings by repairing or reinstating joinery elements (doors, windows)**

Doors

Original doors should be retained if at all possible. The removal of old doors can have a negative impact on the character of traditional farm buildings. Replacement should be a last resort, only undertaken when repair is not practically possible.

- Retain old door furniture where possible (eg. original latches, bolts, hinges).
- Retain the original woodwork finish – farmsteads typically had a signature paintwork colour (red estate paint in this instance although this was later replaced with a grey colour scheme).
- If the appearance of the original doors is not known then replacement examples should be constructed following a traditional design, either based on other examples within the farmstead or, failing that, other examples from similar traditional farm buildings.
- Contact DAT for further information if necessary.

Windows

Farm buildings often had distinctive window types, which varied according to function.

- As a general rule, replacement windows should be modelled on the originals where possible.
- If the appearance of the original windows is not known then replacement examples should be constructed following a traditional design, either based on other examples within the farmstead or, failing that, other regional examples.
- Retain the original woodwork finish – farmsteads typically had a signature paintwork colour (red estate paint in this instance although this was later replaced with a grey colour scheme).
- Contact DAT for further information if necessary.

References

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 38.07, 25”
Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 38.07, 25”
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 38.11, 25”
Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 38.11, 25”
Tithe Map & Apportionment 1839 Llandygwydd Parish

Map of farmstead

