

AUGUST 2002



# **CILRATH FACH W/13/2784**

## **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report**



Report No. 2002/64

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales



CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/64  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44176

August 2002

CILRATH FACH  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

Paul Sambrook

*Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA  
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF  
Ffôn: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rholi Trefladaeth 01558 823131  
Ffacs: 01558 823133  
Epost: 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

*The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)*  
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA



## **CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Method Statement</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>General Description of farm</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Main Management Recommendations</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Site and Area Status Glossary</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Report</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Farm Map</b>	<b>26</b>

## **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

Cilrath Fach is a small holding of some 30 acres located to the north of the A40 road, and some 2km south-west of Clunderwen village, close to the Pembrokeshire - Carmarthenshire border. Cilrath Fach also lies within the parish of Narberth and close to the historic Landsker boundary between the Pembrokeshire Englishry and Welshry, which can be seen from place-name evidence to lie some 3km to the south.

As its name implies, Cilrath Fach itself is to be identified with the Welshry and indeed the prospect from the farmyard looks to the north, with the Preseli hills clearly in view. The surrounding landscape is one of deep stream valleys and steep, often wooded valley slopes. Cilrath Wood lies on the holding and is one of the largest wooded parcels in the vicinity at present, although it can be seen from historic map evidence to be somewhat larger today than it was during the 19th century.

The name Cilrath suggests that a rath or iron-age defended enclosure may have existed in the neighbourhood, but no such site is currently known either here or on the larger Cilrath Fawr farm to the east. Two possible enclosures identified in the HE1 report for Cilrath Fach did not appear to be antiquities when viewed in the field.

A number of raths are recorded locally however, such as Faenor Gaer 1.5km to the west, and there are also a group of Bronze Age tumuli 500m south of the farmstead. Both indicate human activity in the immediate area during prehistoric times. Trefangor and Henllan, Llanddewi Velfry, 2km to the west suggest early Christian activity also. There can be no doubt that the landscape here has been farmed and managed continuously for at least the past 5,000 years.



*Fig. 1: Cilrath Fach farmhouse from rear with the Preseli Hills to the north.*



Little history can be elucidated directly relating to Cilrath Fach itself. The tithe survey of the 1840s names one Henry Palmer as the owner of the property at that time, but nothing is known of him. The tithe schedule names one Levi Davis as his tenant. At that time Cilrath Fach was a holding of over 99 acres and probably at the peak of its development.

The lands of the 19th century holding appear to have two distinctive origins. The irregular-shaped fields downslope, to the north of the farmyard, appear to have been enclosed earlier than those to the north, which display a more regular, grid-like pattern, typical of lands enclosed during the 18th and 19th centuries. The latter fields are part of a distinctive block of regular-patterned fields focused on neighbouring Blackmoor Farm - the name of which does indicate support the idea that this land was open moorland until recent historic times.

The field boundaries on the modern holding tend to be of earth boundary banks topped with hedges and some mature trees. Those fields which border onto Cilrath Wood do not however have boundary banks, but are simply fenced off from the woodland. It may be that some of these fields had been carved out of a larger woodland before the 19th century.

What is apparent is that the farmyard was laid out quite carefully at some time in the early 19th century or slightly earlier, with a fine range of farm buildings provided.

The farmyard buildings have mostly been listed by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments as a good example of a small West Wales farmstead complex and for this reason the careful management of the farmstead is desirable. Many buildings had fallen into disrepair by the late 20th century and the present owner has undertaken important restoration work on most of them to ensure their continuance into the 21<sup>st</sup> century as functioning buildings. The farmhouse has also been restored and extended and some landscaping has led to aesthetic improvements of the farmyard area, which had fallen victim to poor drainage and the attendant problems of muddiness and dampness in many of the farm buildings.



## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The main management concerns relating to Cilrath Fach are associated with the group of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings around the farmyard which have Grade 2 listed status (PRNs 25337,25338,25339,25340,45434,45446,45447, 45449, 45450) Any future renovation or alteration to buildings in this group must be undertaken with the consent of, and in consultation with the appropriate bodies

The retention of the mixed landscape of fields and woodland, created by historic processes and adding much to the beauty and environmental value of the land within the holding is also highly desirable.



## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	19525	<b>Site Name</b>	Parc Quarry	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN10911711
<b>Site Type</b>	Quarry	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval		

### Description

The 1842 parish tithe map names this field as Parc Quarry, showing that stone was being quarried here before the mid-19th century. The subsequent OS map series of 1891 and 1906 show quarry pits here, although the quarry had become disused by 1891. The pit has been largely filled in and is little surface evidence of the working here. The nature of the stone quarried and the purpose of obtaining it are not known.

### Recommendations

No specific recommendation

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	25337	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11081692
<b>Site Type</b>	Farmhouse	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### Description

The farmhouse at Cilrath Fach was Grade 2 Listed in conjunction with its associated outbuildings. The listing schedule describes the house as being an excellent example of early or mid-19th century West Wales rural vernacular farmhouse. The house has however been substantially renovated in recent years, but its essential character has not been diminished greatly, particularly with regard to the front elevation.

### Recommendations

No specific recommendation

**Site Category** A





*Fig.2: Cilrath Fach Farmhouse front elevation*

<b>PRN</b>	25338	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11051694
<b>Site Type</b>	Cowhouse	<b>Period</b>	Post Med	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### **Description**

[This outbuilding is a Grade 2 Listed Building which is described thus in the listing schedule;

"Early- mid C19 cowhouse. Limewashed rubble masonry. Later moderately pitched slate roof. 3 doorways, offset to right. Timber lintels. Central transverse feed passage with door in rear elevation. Ventilation slits to right end elevation. Ruined cartshed attached to right end. Two box, pound and run pigsties to left end. Gabled corrugated iron roof. Entrances to centre, collapsed run walls."





*Fig.3: Front elevation of cowhouse viewed from the north-east.*

The 2002 Tir Gofal visit ascertained that some restoration and repair work has occurred to the pigsty (PRN45434) and that the cartshed remains in a ruined condition. With regard to the condition of the cowhouse itself, it is externally in very good condition and well maintained. It seems that the feed passage referred to as being within the building has apparently been lost, possibly due to the removal of stalls and feeding troughs - although as these are not mentioned in the listing schedule it is impossible to determine if this is the case (see also PRN45446).

### **Recommendations**

This is a Grade 2 listed building and any future renovation or alteration must be undertaken with the consent of, and in consultation with the appropriate bodies

**Site Category** A

<b>PRN</b>	25339	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11071695
<b>Site Type</b>	Cowhouse	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### **Description**

This Grade 2 Listed Building stands on the farmyard at Cilrath Fach, north of and directly opposite the farmhouse. It is described thus in the listing schedule;

"Early-mid C19 lofted cowhouse. Limewashed rubble masonry. Steeply pitched corrugated iron roof. Symmetrical front. 2 rectangular loft openings set under eaves. 3 doorways, slightly cambered brick voissours. Stone staircase with later render and sidewall."

This building was found to be undergoing renovation when visited in July 2002, with most of the



front wall having been demolished and replaced with an inner skin of concrete blocks, which will be finished off with an outer skin of natural stone in keeping with the character of the rest of the building. A new slate roof is being added also.

Unlike the other buildings in the farmstead complex at Cilrath Fach, this building is not shown on the 1": 1 mile OS map of 1831 and may well post-date the survey undertaken for that map (which was carried out a decade or so before 1831).



*Fig.4: Front elevation of lofted cowhouse viewed from south-west*

### **Recommendations**

Tir Gofal/CCW/DAT/2002.07.30/A/This building is undergoing renovation and no recommendations are thought necessary.

**Site Category** A





*Fig.5: Lofted cowhouse  
viewed from north-east  
showing rear elevation*



*Fig.6: Lofted cowhouse  
viewed from south-east  
showing external stairs*



<b>PRN</b>	25340	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11091695
<b>Site Type</b>	Stable	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### Description

This stable building forms the upper half of a larger building range on the eastern side of the farmyard at Cilrath Fach. The lower half of the range is a barn which appears to have been built against the gable end of the stable.

Both are Grade 2 Listed Buildings and the listing schedule describes the stable thus;

"Early-mid C19 stable. Limewashed rubble masonry. Moderately pitched corrugated asbestos roof. Central doorway with flanking windows. Timber lintels, plank door. Hopper windows; unglazed vent over wooden shutter."

There appears to have been little change to the appearance of this building which now houses chickens. However, part of the front wall had collapsed at some stage subsequent to listing and this damage has been repaired by the present owner.

### Recommendations

This is a Grade 2 listed building and any future renovation or alteration must be undertaken with the consent of, and in consultation with the appropriate bodies

**Site Category** A



*Fig.7: Stable and barn viewed from north-east showing front elevation. The stable is the upper portion of this building range.*



<b>PRN</b>	45434	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11051692
<b>Site Type</b>	Pigsty	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### Description

This Pigsty is included in the Cadw listing of the building range at Cilrath farmstead. The listing schedule for the cowshed (PRN25338) to which it is attached describes the pigsty thus:

"Two box, pound and run pigsties... Gabled corrugated iron roof. Entrances to centre, collapsed run walls."

The pigsty has been restored since this description was made and is now used to house fowl.

### Recommendations

This structure is in good condition and should be maintained as part of the historic building group at Cilrath Fach, the importance of which is recognised through its Grade 2 listed status.

**Site Category** A



*Fig.8: Pigsty viewed from east showing rear elevation*



<b>PRN</b>	45447	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11041695
<b>Site Type</b>	Cart Shed	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

#### **Description**

This small, 19th century lean-to cartshed was built against the northern gable end of the outbuilding PRN25338 on Cilrath Fach farmyard. It is now completely ruined, with only its eastern wall standing. It appears large enough to have taken no more than a single cart.

#### **Recommendations**

This is part of a Grade 2 listed building range and any future removal or stone or repair should only be undertaken with consent and consultation.

**Site Category** A

<b>PRN</b>	45448	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11041693; SN11051688
<b>Site Type</b>	Leat	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval		

#### **Description**

During the early 20th century, and possibly earlier, the pond PRN45444 supplied water to the outbuilding and dairy PRN45446 via a small leat. The fall between the pond and dairy was only of a few feet, but there was enough of a head of water to maintain the supply. The leat was no more than a narrow and shallow feature, which has now been largely lost due to the creation of a pathway along its course toward the former pond site. There is no surface evidence for the leat closer to the building either, probably due to modern landscaping.

#### **Recommendations**

No specific recommendations

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	45449	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11091696
<b>Site Type</b>	Barn	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

#### **Description**

This Grade 2 listed barn forms the lower half of a larger building range at the eastern side of the farmyard at Cilrath Fach, a stable forming the upper portion of the range. The barn appears to have been built onto the northern gable end of the stable.

The listing schedule describes the barn thus:



"Early-mid C19 barn, stepped down from and adjoining stable. Limewashed rubble masonry. Moderately pitched roof of small quarry slates laid to diminishing courses. Single storage bay with threshing floor set to left end. Front doorway enlarged, split door to rear; timber lintels. Single ventilation slits to side walls of storage bay."

This description of the external characteristics of the barn appears to describe its appearance in 2002, other than that a small aluminium chimney ventilation pipe now comes through the top of the northern gable wall. The interior of this building was not examined in 2002.

### **Recommendations**

This is a Grade 2 listed building and any future renovation or alteration must be undertaken with the consent of, and in consultation with the appropriate bodies

**Site Category** A



*Fig.14: View of the rear elevation the barn and stable at Cilrath Fach. Note the calf house attached to gable end wall of the barn.*



<b>PRN</b>	45450	<b>Site Name</b>	Cilrath Fach	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN11081696
<b>Site Type</b>	Calf House	<b>Period</b>	Post Mediaeval	<b>Site status</b>	LB2

### **Description**

A small lean-to structure built against the northern gable end of barn PRN45449 on Cilrath Fach farmyard. It is a Grade 2 listed structure by virtue of its association with the listed barn.

The listing schedule describes it thus;

"Lean-to calf pen, attached to end of barn. Limewashed rubble. Slate roof. Plank door offset to left, unglazed rectangular window to right; timber lintels, missing to window."

Some repairs have been undertaken to the north-eastern corner of the structure, which had apparently collapsed at some stage. These repairs are in concrete block. The slate roof described by Cadw has also gone and a corrugated iron roof now covers the building.

### **Recommendations**

This is a Grade 2 listed building and any future renovation or alteration must be undertaken with the consent of, and in consultation with the appropriate bodies

**Site Category** A



## **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**

CADW, 1988, Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest – Narberth, p.30

Narberth Parish Tithe Map & Schedule, 1842

Ordnance Survey, 1831, 1st edition 1 inch: 1 mile map

Ordnance Survey, 1891, 1st edition 1:10560 scale map, Pembs. Sheet XXIX.NW

Ordnance Survey, 1891, 2nd edition 1:10560 scale map, Pembs. Sheet XXIX.NW



**CILRATH FACH**

**REPORT NUMBER 2002/64**

**August 2002**

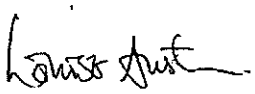
This report has been prepared by Paul Sambrook

Position Heritage Management Projects Manager

Signature ..... Date .....

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

Position Principal Archaeological Officer

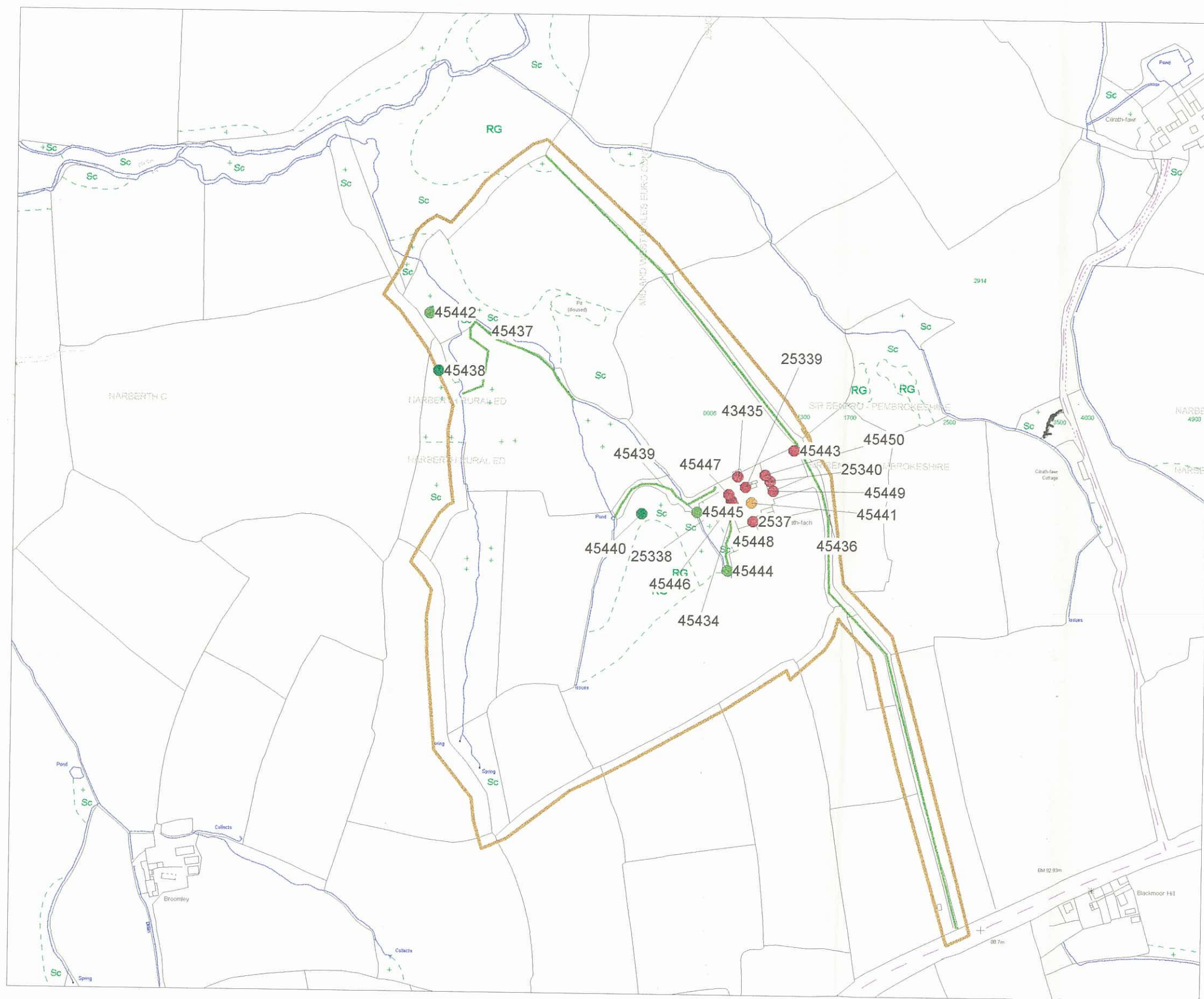
Signature  Date... 14 August 2002.....

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









Name Cilrath Fach  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/2784  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference Number 44176  
 National Grid Reference SN10991690  
 Scale 1:4,000

#### Key

- Farm Boundary
- Historic Landscape Character Area

#### Site Category A - National Importance

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments  
Grade 1 and Grade 2\* Listed Buildings
- Sites and Buildings of National  
Importance without a statutory  
designation
- Registered Parks and Gardens of  
Historic Interest
- Registered Landscapes of Historic  
Interest

#### Site Category B - Regional Importance

- Sites and Buildings of Regional  
Importance including Grade 2  
listed buildings

#### Site Category C - Local Importance

- Sites and buildings of Local  
Importance

#### Site Category D - Unknown Importance

- Sites requiring further investigation  
and sites with no physical definition.

This map is reproduced from the OS map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright.  
 All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G