



Cwrtygollen W/12/2640

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



A view of the farmstead of Cwrtygollen (Prn 48677)

Report No. 2002/116

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/116
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44208

Cwrtygollen
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Method Statement	3
General Description of farm	4
Main Management Recommendations	4
Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments	5
Site and Area Status Glossary	11
References	11
Farm Map	12
Farm Map	13
Quality Assurance Report	15

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 (Prn 47774)

The farm of Cwrtygollen consists of two holdings which lie within the community of Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn to the north and northwest of Halfway. The holdings are centred on National Grid References SN82553321 and SN83413411.

The main farm holding of 28 acres, which includes the farmstead itself, is situated along the northeastern banks of the Afon Gwyderrig. The land reaches almost 230 metres at its highest and steeply slopes down to the banks of the river at 130 metres. Some field boundaries have fallen into disuse, but largely the field pattern which is visible today was in place when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 was surveyed. The landscape is characterised by straight field boundaries constructed with earth banks lined on top with hedges. Those field boundaries which are disused are still visible in the landscape as low earth banks and sparsely placed mature hedgerow trees.

The farmstead of Cwrtygollen (Prn 48677) consists of the farmhouse which stands along the southwestern side of the road. To the south of the farmhouse are a number of large modern farm buildings.

The second land holding is greater in size, amassing just under 90 acres, less than a kilometre to the northwest of the first land holding. It lies on the northwestern flanks of the ridge known as Cefn Arthen. The land reaches 260 metres at its highest, sloping down to the Nant Gwennol at 130 metres. With the exception of one or two field boundaries which have been removed, the field pattern recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map 1891 appears little altered from that seen today.

Historically this area is characterised by pockets of woodland, the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows them to be composed of deciduous, mixed and conifer woodland.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Some areas of tree planting have been proposed through the Tir Gofal scheme. There do not appear to be any problem areas in this respect and the planting of native woodland species would enhance the character of this already wooded area.

There do not appear to be any management problems regarding the historic environment of this farm, the area of most concern is the remains of Cwm Fynnon Farmhouse (Prn 47779). Ideally certain actions could be taken to help slow the deterioration of this ruin including; the trimming of any overhanging branches to prevent them loosening the stonework along the wall tops and cutting back saplings before they become fully established within close proximity to the structure. The masonry of this farmhouse, although standing to a great height, is potentially unstable, therefore any works in this area should be done with extreme caution and close attention to personal safety.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	47775	Site	Grid Reference	SN82233349
		Name		
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval	

Description

The owners of Cwrtygollen recall that a documentary reference suggested that a cottage was sited on the south side of the road, to the west of the farmstead. There is no trace of a cottage recorded in this location on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, and there is no evidence on the ground.

Recommendations

If any further information comes to light about the nature of this building please inform Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN 47776 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN82393336
Site Type PLATFORM? **Period** Post Medieval

Description

A level platform of approximately 13 metres across from northeast to southwest and cut about 20 metres into the natural slope is situated on the southeast side of the road. The historic map sources do not record any structure in this location. The platform is in close proximity to a modern well and may, therefore, relate to its construction.

Recommendations

If any further information is discovered about this feature please inform Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D



Prn 47776 – an area of level ground cut into the natural slope.

PRN 47777

**Site
Name**

Grid Reference SN82833338

Site Type WELL

Period Modern

Description

A well, covered with concrete, and with a rubber overflow issuing from it is situated close to the field boundary. It is not recorded on any of the historic map sources consulted and is therefore thought to be a modern construction.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category

PRN	47778	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN82653315
Site Type	POND	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A pond approximately 10 metres across has been constructed into the natural hill slope. It does not appear to have been recorded on the early edition Ordnance Survey maps. A rubble stone revetment bank c. 0.5 metre high and turf covered has been built along the contour and a small depression quarried out of the hillside. Two large trees are growing from either side of the revetment wall. The pond is currently holding some water.

Recommendations

The pond appears to be in a stable condition, although the water levels were quite low at the time of the visit. If any works are proposed to restore this pond, please consult with Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category C



Prn 47778 – a small pond has been created by the construction of a revetment bank across the natural slope

PRN	47779	Site Name	CWM FYNNON	Grid Reference	SN83223419
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A farmhouse which was last inhabited in 1913 is situated on the southeast side of the Cwm Gwennol, above a relic trackway. The house is now a roofless shell, built in slate rubble and river cobbles. The walls have largely collapsed to ground floor level, although in the north corner the wall survives to the height of the first floor window lintel. The front façade, which faces northeast, has a central doorway flanked by 4-pane sash windows (with horns) to either side, with three windows positioned in the first floor. In the north gable wall a fireplace is evident, in the south gable is a large inglenook fireplace with a large bressumer beam over. The remains of a bread oven, constructed in white brick, is evident in the side of the fireplace. The first floor beams and roof trusses still lie within the building, along with much building rubble.

The house is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, and certain features of the building would suggest that it does not date earlier than the mid 19th century. There may have been an earlier building situated on this site, however.

The house is in a deteriorating condition, exacerbated by a large sycamore and an ash tree, whose branches overhang the wall tops, loosening the stonework.

Recommendations

Although the restoration of this old farmhouse is currently unfeasible, certain actions could be taken to help slow the deterioration of this ruin. Ideally any overhanging branches should be cut back to prevent them from loosening the stonework along the wall tops and any saplings should be cut back before they become fully established within close proximity to the structure.

The masonry of this farmhouse, although standing to a great height is potentially loose and unstable therefore any works in this area should be done with extreme caution and close attention to personal safety.

Site Category C



Prn 47779 – the remains of the farmhouse of Cwm Fynnon

PRN	48677	Site Name	Cwrtygollen	Grid Reference	SN82293347
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The farmstead of Cwrtygollen consists of the farmhouse which stands along the southwestern side of the road. To the south of the farmhouse are a number of large modern farm buildings

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C

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

- Ordnance Survey 1891. Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVII.NE
- Ordnance Survey 1891. Carmarthenshire Sheet XVIII.SE
- Ordnance Survey 1906. Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVII.NE
- Ordnance Survey 1906. Carmarthenshire Sheet XVIII.SE

Cwrtgollen

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/2640
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 44208
 National Grid Reference SN82453322
 Map 1

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

Site Category B - Regional Importance

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

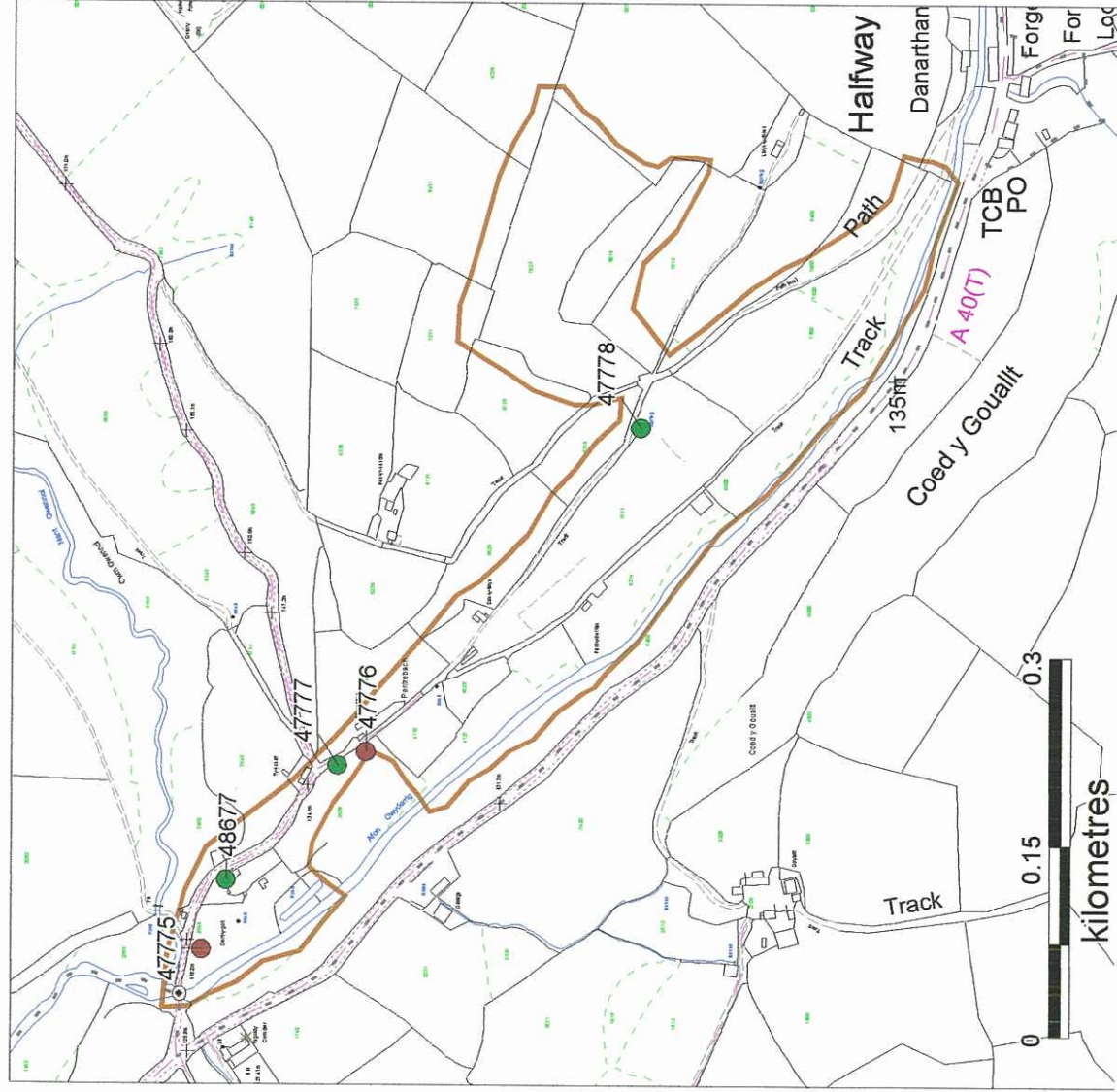
Site Category C - Local Importance

- Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

- Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

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Cwrtygollen


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
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 National Grid Reference SN83413411
 Map 2




Farm Boundary

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


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

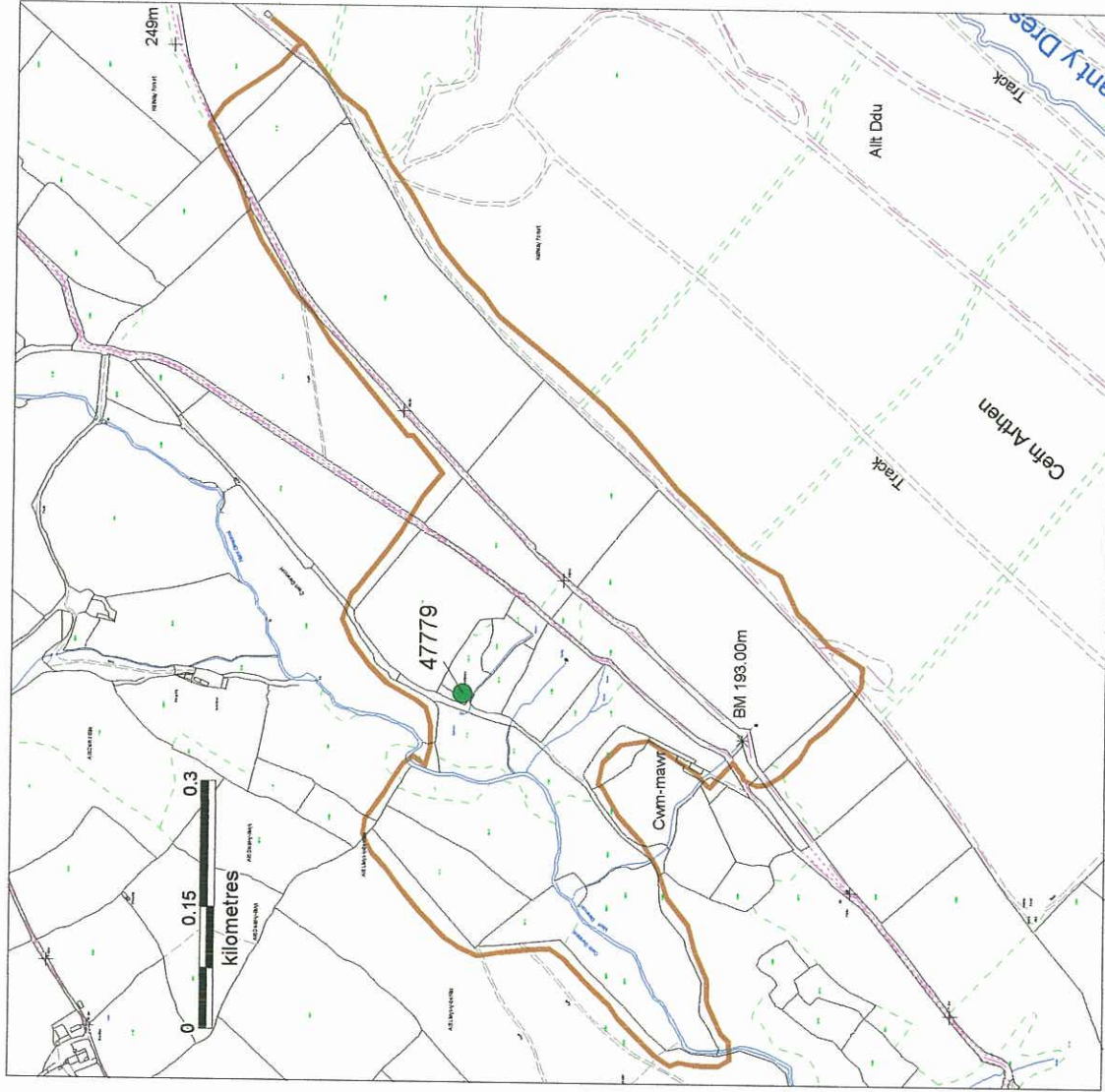
Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with
 no physical definition

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**Cwrtygollen
W/12/2640**

REPORT NUMBER 2002/116

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