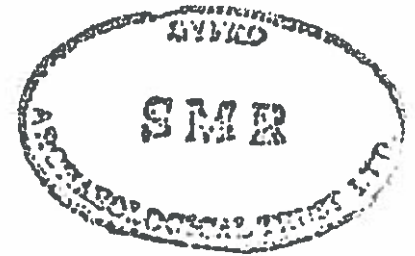


DEC 2002



Dyffryn Isaf W/13/2991

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/81

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Dyffryn Isaf
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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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

The Farmstead of Dyffryn Isaf lies around 1.5 km to the north of Llandissilio and borders the south side of Afon Rhyd-y-bil which forms the border between Carmarthenshire to the north and Pembrokeshire to the south. The farmstead comprises the farmhouse (PRN 46524), a farm building range (PRN 46504), and the nearby mill and associated features (PRNs 46505 and 46506). The farm has been identified in a document dated to 1744, although the farm buildings and mill appear to belong to the 19th and possibly early 20th Century, the core of the present farmhouse may indeed belong to the early 18th Century or earlier.

The farm holding contains the cottage site of Ffynnonau-Bach (PRN 23207), one of a few now lost cottages that bordered one of the roads north from Llandissilio, and a length of trackway (PRN 46507) preserved in the field system, possibly a remaining fragment of trackway which predated the modern road from Llandissilio to Dyffryn Isaf.

The Tithe Map Apportionment from 1839 shows that 'Diffryn issa' was owned by a William Lewis and occupied by a Benjamin Lewis. They also owned and occupied a cottage further south on the other side of the road from Ffynnonau-Bach (PRN 23207) with the enigmatic name 'Slippery Jack'. Although this name only appears as such on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, by the time the second edition is published in 1908 the name has been shortened to just 'Slippery', presumably this is a comment on the nature of the steep road from this point down to the Afon Rhyd-y-bil. However a sense of humour must have existed in the local community as the Tithe map also shows a cottage named 'Rhydyriddle' just where the road from Slippery crosses the river.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Prn 23207 – Ffynnonau-Bach Cottage

This site should be maintained as a visible landscape feature. No ground disturbance should take place within the main focus of the cottage site. The farmer expressed a wish to plant a limited number of trees (six) within the larger area of the cottage enclosure, as defined by the mature trees of the outgrown hedgerow enclosure. Any planting of trees should take place at least 10m to the north of the cottage site in order to protect any buried archaeology which may survive in this area, and within the former cottage enclosure in order to respect the boundary line of the enclosure.

Prn 46505 – Mill Building

The mill building survives in a very good condition although there are a few problems concerning the fabric of the building, notably the first floor joists and floorboards as well as the roof cover and missing doors. Ideally this building should be brought back into use to preserve its long term future. It is believed that it is the farmers intention to do this and this should be welcomed.

Any work carried out on this building should use traditional methods and materials and may have implications for the surviving archaeology of the other mill elements, such as the wheel pit and millrace. Please contact Cambria Archaeology in advance of any works.

Prn 46506 – Mill Leat

Although it is difficult to identify any positive upstanding mill leat features, it is probable that surviving archaeological features remain within this area. Any planting of trees should take place at least 10m to the east of the mill building (PRN46505) and at least 5m from the break of slope at the bottom of the bank, which defines the line of the leat. Any planting should also be of a managed corridor of a species such as willow, this will prevent extensive woody vegetation growing in an area that is archaeologically very sensitive.

Hopefully such an approach will enable active use of this area of land whilst protecting any buried archaeological deposits.

Prn 46507 – Trackway

The north section of this trackway is currently an integral part of the farm, it should be preserved as a landscape feature and ideally the hedgerows on either bank should be laid to maintain a viable and stock proof field boundary. If this is not to be done the banks should be kept in sound and stable condition and any excessive vegetation growth controlled. Any damage to the banks caused by fallen trees should be repaired.

The southern section of trackway should also be preserved as a visible landscape feature. To achieve this no ploughing or other ground disturbance should take place within 15m of the west side of the field boundary, this will protect the relic trackway. Ideally the hedgerow forming the field boundary should be laid or replanted where necessary and consideration could be given to the removal of particularly large or unstable trees to prevent further collapse of the bank. Fencing along the length of the field boundary could be considered as a short term measure and as part of a long term restoration programme. This would protect the bank and boundary from animal erosion, although would not prevent the long term decay of the boundary.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	23207	Site Name	FFYNNONAU-BACH	Grid Reference	SN11722303
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post-Medieval		

Description

This site is shown on the Tithe map and Apportionment for Llandissilio Parish (1839) as a cottage and garden owned and occupied by a George James of Marble Hall and called Ffynnon Bach. It is shown unchanged on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 & 1908 respectively. It survives today as a low irregular platform fronting the roadside and with mature trees on the line of the surrounding cottage and garden enclosure.

Recommendations

This site should be maintained as a visible landscape feature. No ground disturbance should take place within the main focus of the cottage site. The farmer expressed a wish to plant a limited number of trees (six) within the larger area of the cottage enclosure, as defined by the mature trees of the outgrown hedgerow enclosure. Any planting of trees should take place at least 10m to the north of the cottage site in order to protect any buried archaeology which may survive in this area, and within the former cottage enclosure in order to respect the boundary line of the enclosure.

Site Category C



Plate 1 – Cottage site from the north (PRN23207)

PRN	46504	Site Name	Dyffryn Isaf	Grid Reference	SN11552311
Site Type	BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A one storey north south stone built range that has largely been converted to holiday

accommodation.

Recommendations

Although part of this building is in residential use, the south part is yet to be converted. It is believed that it is the farmers intention to convert the rest of this building. If any further building work is to be undertaken, attention should be paid to the use of traditional materials and methods.

Site Category C



Plate 2 – Farm building (PRN 46504)

PRN	46505	Site Name	DYFFRYN ISAF	Grid Reference	SN11562314
Site Type	MILL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A two storey brick built gabled building to the north east of Dyffryn Isaf farmhouse (PRN 46524). A mill building and leat at Dyffryn Isaf first appear on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, however the present mill building is more likely to be the building that is shown on the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1908.

The waterwheel (overshot?) would originally have been housed in an extension to the west. Modern Ordnance Survey LandLine mapping data shows a more rectangular building than exists now and keying bricks which project out of the west face of the mill building suggest that part of the original structure has been lost. The Leat (PRN 46506) would have reached the north east corner of the mill building and then been diverted around the east, south and west faces, before reaching the wheel whose axle pivoted centrally through the west wall.

There are narrow ventilation slits in the north and east faces and a narrow light high up in the east gable and above the door in the north face. A door in the north face allows access to the ground floor, and the upper floor is accessed from a footbridge over the mill race into a door in the south

face. A further (wide) door on the ground floor in the south face directly under the would appear to allow access to the mill race

Internally the wheel axle and pit wheel still survive, as well as the wheel framework, drive wheels and drive belts. On the first floor the threshing machine also still survives.

Recommendations

The mill building survives in a very good condition although there are a few problems concerning the fabric of the building, notably the first floor joists and floorboards as well as the roof cover and missing doors. Ideally this building should be brought back into use to preserve its long term future. It is believed that it is the farmers intention to do this and this should be welcomed. During any works on this building special attention should be paid to the preservation of surviving internal features.

Any work carried out on this building should use traditional methods and materials and may have implications for the surviving archaeology of the other mill elements, such as the wheel pit and millrace. Please contact Cambria Archaeology in advance of any works.

Site Category C



Plate 3 – Mill Building (PRN 46505)



Plate 4 – Mill Building (PRN 46505)

PRN	46506	Site Name	DYFFRYN ISAF	Grid Reference	SN11612317
Site Type	MILL LEAT	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The leat would have been diverted from the Afon Rhyd-y-bil near where the road from Llandissilio fords the river (SN11652320), indeed some maps mark this spot with 'Sluice' and 'Weir', and run directly as an offshoot from the stream to the mill building (PRN 46505). The line of the leat is now a levelled platform between 1 and 2 metres higher than the stream bordered by a sharply rising bank to the south. It is possible that this represents a backfilled leat trench or other form of structure.

Recommendations

Although it is difficult to identify any positive upstanding mill leat features, it is probable that surviving archaeological features remain within this area. Any planting of trees should take place at least 10m to the east of the mill building (PRN 46505) and at least 5m from the break of slope at the bottom of the bank which defines the line of the leat. Any planting should also be of a managed corridor of a species such as willow, this will prevent extensive woody vegetation growing in an area that is archaeologically very sensitive.

Hopefully such an approach will enable active use of this area of land whilst protecting any buried archaeological deposits.

Site Category D



Plate 5 – View along line of Leat (PRN 46506)

PRN	46507	Site Name	DYFFRYN ISAF	Grid Reference	SN11582301
Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This trackway survives in two parts; a well defined straight section with hedgerow topped banks to either side to the north, and to the south a curving section, of which only a hedgerow topped bank on the east side survives and a very slight earthwork bank to the west side.

As the curve of the field boundary is shown on the 1839 Tithe Map, it is possible that this trackway pre-dates the existing field layout and the present boundary respects an earlier routeway.

Recommendations

The north section of this trackway is currently an integral part of the farm, it should be preserved as a landscape feature and ideally the hedgerows on either bank should be laid to maintain a viable and stock proof field boundary. If this is not done the banks should be kept in sound and stable condition and any excessive vegetation growth controlled. Any damage to the banks caused by fallen trees should be repaired.

The southern section of trackway should also be preserved as a visible landscape feature. To achieve this no ploughing or other ground disturbance should take place within 15m of the west side of the field boundary, this will protect the relic trackway. Ideally the hedgerow forming the field boundary should be laid or replanted where necessary and consideration could be given to the removal of particularly large or unstable trees to prevent further collapse of the bank. Fencing along the length of the field boundary could be considered as a short term measure and as part of a long term restoration programme. This would protect the bank and boundary from animal erosion, although would not prevent the long term decay of the boundary.

Site Category D



Plate 6 – Trackway (PRN 46507)

PRN	46524	Site Name	DYFFRYN	Grid Reference	SN11532312
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	ISAF Post Medieval		

Description

The farm has been identified in a document dated to 1744, the core of the present farmhouse may indeed belong to the early 18th Century or earlier.

Recommendations

The farmhouse is currently in use as a dwelling and is not part of the Tir Gofal agreement.

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

- Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Llandissilio (1839)
1st edition Ordnance Survey map, 1891, Pembs sheet XXIV.NW.
2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1908, Pembs sheet XXIV.NW.
Charles, B.G. 1992 *The Place Names Of Pembrokeshire* p695

**Dyffryn Isaf
W/13/2991**

REPORT NUMBER 2002/81

December 2002

This report has been prepared by Simon Wardle

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Signature S. Wardle Date 13/03/03

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Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 13/03/03


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

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- ### Site Category A - National Importance

- 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

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