

Cwm Hwylog W/11/3220

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Cwm Hwylog incorporates the parkland of Nanteos house

Report No. 2003/48

Report Prepared for: Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/48 PROJECT RECORD NO. 44278

April 2003

Cwm Hwylog 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

Cwm Hwylog (Prn 47698) is situated almost entirely on the south side of the Nant Paith valley and incorporates some of the most important parkland in Wales. Nanteos house, the heart of a grand Georgian estate, is situated on the north side of the Nant Paith valley and the beautiful landscape to the south, which is now part of Cwm Hwylog farm, was enhanced by the design of the landscape park to achieve picturesque views from the house. The parkland is characterised by large open spaces of pasture, punctuated by loose clumps of trees, and belts of trees to the east and west which guide the eye up to the horizon on the south side of the valley. The importance of the garden and parkland at Nanteos has been recognised by its inclusion in the Cadw Parks and Gardens Register where it has been evaluated at Grade II*. The history of the park and its development is detailed in the register.

The farmstead of Cwm Hwylog is not in its original position. A map, dated 1764, of the farmstead of Cwm Hwylog indicates that it was situated to the north of the B4340 in an area which lies just outside the current farm boundary. The farmstead appears to have moved up to its present position by 1832. There is no indication to suggest that any earlier structure existed in the current location of the farmstead prior to this, although a vague reference to a medieval settlement is recorded in the area, (Rees, 1933) evidence for it in this location has not been substantiated.

It is possible that the farm moved its location as a result of the landscaping which took place at Nanteos. Other significant changes to the landscape include the removal of the public road which ran across the park from Aberystwyth to New Cross. This was closed in the early 19th century, although the course of the road can still be clearly seen.

The farmland which lies to the south of the B4340 has a field pattern which appears little changed from that recorded in 1818 by William Crawford when the farm was owned by William Edward Powell, the owner of the Nanteos estate. Some of this farmland forms part of the essential setting to the parkland and here the field boundaries are fenced, which gives a more open aspect to the landscape.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Prn 36861 NANTEOS PARK

A large portion of the farm of Cwm Hwylog lies within the parkland of Nanteos and holds a critical position directly in front of the house. It is here that the Tir Gofal scheme can make a positive contribution to the continued survival of the parkland.

In order to maintain the parkland character it is necessary to begin a tree planting scheme to replace those trees which have been lost and those whose lifetime is drawing to a close. It has been suggested that this programme could be initiated through the Tir Gofal scheme.

In consultation with Cadw and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust it is proposed to inform this tree planting programme by using the 1: 2500 first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1888)

and 1904) and also the "Plan of Nanteos Demesne..." by William Crawford which was drawn up in 1818. These maps show quite clearly the positions of individual trees during the 19th century when the parkland was fully established.

The species selected for tree planting should follow the profile which survives within the parkland, which is predominantly English Oak with a few Beech trees to the east beside Target Cover, and occasional examples of Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut, Ash and Weymouth Pine.

Ideally a cyclical programme of tree planting should be carried out, so that the planting scheme is being constantly regenerated, rather than all trees reaching their maturity and consequently dying at the same point. Within the scope of the 10 year scheme this kind of rolling programme could be initiated, with perhaps two separate cycles for tree planting.

It has been proposed to open this area of parkland up for public access, this is a very worthwhile proposal, and would afford the general public the opportunity to experience the designed landscape at Nanteos and to enjoy the views across the park. This could be enhanced by providing further information about the natural and historic environment at Nanteos.

Prn 47693 KENNEL/EYECATCHER

This structure would have formed an important visual element in the design of the parkland at Nanteos. Therefore efforts should be made to try and preserve what remains of the structure. The Ash tree, which grows in the centre of the façade, should be carefully cut down to ground level. Extreme care must be exercised in the removal of the branches and trunk to prevent any damage to the remains of the structure. The roots should not be removed and should be spot treated in place to prevent regrowth.

Ideally in the longer term a programme of consolidation should be carried out, repointing and stabilizing the masonry remains. A record of the structure should be carried out prior to these works, and it is hoped that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) would be able to undertake this work. Please consult with Cambria Archaeology and Cadw prior to these works being carried out.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN

5169

Site Name

NEW

Grid Reference SN61157879

WARREN HILL

Site Type

RABBIT WARREN Period

Medieval;

Post

Medieval

Description

From the 12th century to the 18th century rabbits where kept in specially constructed warrens or "pillow mounds" The possible site of rabbit warrens is indicated by the place names "New Warren Hill" and "Old Warren Hill". However, there were no remains of these structures observed during the Tir Gofal farm visit.

Recommendations

If any ground intrusive activities are planned in this area, please consult with Cambria Archaeology in advance.

Site Category D

PRN

10916

Site Name

WELDOC,

Grid

Reference

SN62007740

CWM

HWYLOG

Site Type

SETTLEMENT

Period

Medieval

Description

A record refers to a medieval settlement existing somewhere in this locality. It has been thought that the farmstead of Cwm Hwylog may overlie this site. However, there is little evidence to suggest the exact location of this site and no visible evidence in the fabric of the existing farmstead to suggest that there are medieval remains in this area.

Recommendations

Please inform Cambria Archaeology if any works are to be undertaken in the vicinity of the farmstead.

Site Category D

PRN	36861	Site Name	NANTEOS	Grid Reference	SN61947836
Site Type	PARK	Period	Post Medieval	Site Status	PGW(Dy) 52 (Cer)

Description

The northern area of the farm falls within part of the parkland of Nanteos which is situated directly in front of the great house. This particular area constitutes the main vista from the front of the house. The parkland has been evaluated as Grade II* due to the well preserved nature of the house and its environs which form one of the most important survivals of a grand Georgian estate in Wales.

The parkland which falls within the boundary of Cwm Hwylog farm is situated on the south side of the Nant Paith stream and rises from the valley floor to the current B4340 Aberystwyth to New Cross road. The parkland is characterised by open grassland, punctuated by informal clumps and belts of woodland planting.

The parkland still survives and is very recognisable. It has been planted mostly with Oaks although a few Beeches and Sycamores and the occasional Sweet Chestnut and Weymouth pine have also been part of the planting scheme (A.O. Chater, 1992). Although the planting scheme still survives it is noticeable that a significant number of trees have been lost in recent years and the parkland is now littered with tree stumps and fallen timber.

Recommendations

In order to maintain the parkland character it is necessary to begin a tree planting scheme to replace those trees which have been lost and those whose lifetime is drawing to a close. It has been suggested that this programme could be initiated through the Tir Gofal scheme.

In consultation with Cadw and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust it is proposed to inform this tree planting programme by using the 1: 2500 first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1888 and 1904) and also the "Plan of Nanteos Demesne..." by William Crawford which was drawn up in 1818. These maps show quite clearly the positions of individual trees during the 19th century when the parkland was fully established.

The species selected for tree planting should follow the profile which survives within the parkland, which is predominantly English Oak with a few Beech trees to the east beside Target Cover, and occasional examples of Sycamore, Sweet Chestnut, Ash and Weymouth Pine.

Ideally a cyclical programme of tree planting should be carried out, so that the planting scheme is being constantly regenerated, rather than all trees reaching their maturity and consequently dying at the same point. Within the scope of the 10 year scheme this kind of rolling programme could be initiated, with perhaps two separate cycles for tree planting.

It has been proposed to open this area of parkland up for public access, this is a very worthwhile proposal, and would afford the general public the opportunity to experience the designed

landscape at Nanteos and to enjoy the views across the park. This could be enhanced by providing information about the natural and historic environment at Nanteos.

Site Category A



Prn 36861 – a view across the parkland towards Nanteos house

47686

Site Name

Grid Reference SN62027757

Site Type

QUARRY

Period

Post Medieval

Description

A quarry is marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map as "Old Quarry". This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal Farm Visit and consequently its condition is unknown.

Recommendations

If anything exists of this site it should be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature and should not be infilled.

Site Category D

PRN

47687

Site Name

PEN YR ALLT Grid Reference SN61637778

r

WELL

Period

Post

Medieval

Description

Site Type

A well is marked at Pen yr allt on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1886,1906). This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal Farm Visit and consequently its condition is unknown.

Recommendations

If anything exists of this site it should be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category D

47688

Site Name

Grid

Reference

SN67397733

Site Type

QUARRY

Period

Post Medieval

Description

A quarry is marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map as "Old Quarry". This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal Farm Visit and consequently its condition is unknown.

Recommendations

If anything exists of this site it should be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature and should not be infilled.

Site Category D

PRN

47689

Site Name

PEN Y **BONT**

Grid Reference SN61797788

Site Type

COTTAGE

Period

Post

Medieval

Description

A cottage is marked on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1906. This cottage is occupied.

Recommendations

This cottage falls outside the Tir Gofal scheme, hence no management recommendations apply.

Site Category

47690

Site Name

Grid Reference SN59987923

Site Type

WELL

D

Period

Post Medieval

Description

A well is marked on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891, 1906). This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal Farm Visit and consequently its condition is unknown.

Recommendations

If anything exists of this site it should be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category

Site Name

Grid Reference SN62187809

Site Type

PHEASANTRY?

Period

Post Medieval

Description

Within Target Cover a low earthwork bank is visible which lies inside the present fenced boundary. The bank is low, and appears to have been cut out of the hill slope. It is suggests that some kind of enclosure was situated within Target Cover. Documentary records suggest that during the later 19th century the woods on the estate were stocked with pheasants for sport. The presence of this enclosure within a the aptly named Target Cover may suggest that this enclosure was constructed for the purpose of keeping pheasants.

Recommendations

The remains of this enclosure, which may be an enclosure for pheasants, should continue to be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category B



47692

Site Name

NANTEOS

Grid

Reference

SN62027757

Site Type

PARKLAND

Period

Post Medieval

Description

This area of parkland is defined by Cadw in the Register of Parks and Gardens as an "Essential Setting". It encompasses the significant view from the house of Nanteos and has been stated as "an important extension of the view of the park from the house, the woodlands on either side of the central open area cleverly framing it all the way up to the skyline." (Cadw, 2000).

This area, as the Register describes, is open grassland and currently solely using for grazing and is flanked by deciduous woodland to either side.

Recommendations

This area of essential setting should continue to be kept under pasture. This area is particularly sensitive to ploughing, tree planting or any other change in land use and it should therefore be avoided.

Any proposals for this area should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology and Cadw in advance.

Site Category A



Prn 47692 – the area to the south of the B4340 is designated as part of the essential setting to Nanteos house and grounds

PRN 47693 CSZOS Site Name NANTEOS Grid Reference SN62087804

Site Type KENNEL; FOLLY Period Post Medieval

Description

The remains of a structure is situated in the parkland opposite to the house. Only the two ends of the front, northwest facing elevation survive. These stand to a height of almost 4 metres and appear to be constructed in slate rubble set on a plinth. At the west end survives a stone blocked Venetian window (a three-part window composed of a large, arched central section flanked by two narrower, shorter sections having square tops). Also surviving at this end are the remains of a small flue built into the masonry of the corner.

The central section of this area is collapsed and an ash tree has grown up in the centre. The branches of which are brushing the wall tops of the surviving structure. There is also evidence of a projecting apse to the front of the building. To the rear of the building there are no visible remains of the structure, and it has been suggested that only the façade was built and there was no more than an enclosure to the rear. However, the ends of the façade exhibit the vestiges of side walls and added to which, the survival of a flue in the corner of the façade suggests that a structure of some type existed to the rear.

Map evidence, dated 1788, demonstrates that the Revd Powell built the classical eyecatcher, or folly, and that it was used as dog kennels. A reference from 1804 in Francis Jones describes, "At Nanteos, in the true sporting style, the dog kennel is the principle object from the front of the house; but it is disguised like something of a temple." (p202)

The masonry remains of this structure are fragile, and the eastern end of the façade is twisting and bulging, although the owner believes that the structure has been in this condition for some years.

Recommendations

This structure would have formed an important visual element in the design of the parkland at Nanteos. Therefore efforts should be made to try and preserve what remains of the structure. The Ash tree, which grows in the centre of the façade, should be carefully cut down to ground level. Extreme care must be exercised in the removal of the branches and trunk to prevent any damage to the remains of the structure. The roots should not be removed and should be spot treated in place to prevent regrowth.

Ideally, in the longer term, a programme of consolidation should be carried out, repointing and stabilizing the masonry remains. A record of the structure should be carried out prior to these works, and it is hoped that the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) would be able to undertake this work. Please consult with Cambria Archaeology and Cadw prior to these works being carried out.

Site Category A



Prn 47693 – the remains of a dog kennel which was described as "disguised like something of a temple"

47694

Site Name NANTEOS

Grid

Reference

SN62187835

Site Type

FOOTBRIDGE

Period

Post Medieval

Description

A wooden footbridge supported on two stone built piers crossing over the Nant Paith is situated to the east of the park. The wooden structure appears to be a fairly recent replacement, although the stone built piers appear to be 19th century. The historic maps from the 19th century show that a footpath has crossed the Nant Paith at this point for almost two centuries.

The footbridge appears to be in very good condition.

Recommendations

This bridge should continue to be maintained in a stable condition.

Site Category В

47695

Site Name

CWMHWYLOG

Grid

Reference

SN61987740

Site

FARM

Period

Post Medieval

Type

BUILDING

Description

A farm building, orientated on a northeast-southwest axis. It is a one-storey building constructed in stone rubble walling. The roof is pitched, and largely covered with box-sectioned corrugated iron, save for the northeast end where slate laid in diminishing courses survives. The northeast end houses two cart entrances, both wide openings with timber lintels. The central section has two doorways and at the southwest end is a lower door with a small square opening adjacent. The interior was not seen.

Recommendations

The farm building is still in use and appears to be in a stable condition. The building should be maintained using traditional materials.

Site Category C



Prn 47695 – a combination farm building in the farmyard at Cwm Hwylog

47696

Site Name

Grid

Reference

SN61187867

Site Type

SHED

Period

Modern

Description

The remains of a small collapsed corrugated asbestos shed are situated up the slope from the road. The function of this shed is unknown.

Recommendations

Due to the hazardous nature of the material used in the construction of this shed, the broken fragments of asbestos should be carefully disposed of, using appropriate protective measures. Ideally however the non-hazardous remains should be retained.

Site Category C

PRN

47697

Site Name

PEN YR ALLT

Grid

Reference

SN61577779

Site Type

COTTAGE

Period

Post Medieval

Description

A cottage, which is marked on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey, maps of 1891 and 1906. This cottage is occupied.

Recommendations

This cottage falls outside the Tir Gofal scheme, hence no management recommendations apply.

Site Category C

Site Name CWM

Grid

Reference

SN61977741

Site Type

FARMSTEAD

Period

Medieval?; Post

Medieval

HWYLOG

Description

The farmstead of Cwm Hwylog is not in its original position. A map, dated 1764, of the farmstead of Cwm Hwylog indicates that it was situated to the north of the B4340 in an area which lies just outside the current farm boundary. The farmstead appears to have moved up to its present position by 1832. There is no indication to suggest that any earlier structure existed in the current location of the farmstead prior to this, although a vague reference to a medieval settlement is recorded in the area, (Rees, 1933) evidence for it in this location has not been substantiated.

It is possible that the farm moved its location as a result of the landscaping which took place at Nanteos. Other significant changes to the landscape include the removal of the public road which ran across the park from Aberystwyth to New Cross. This was closed in the early 19th century, although the course of the road can still be clearly seen.

Recommendations

The character of this farmstead should be retained by ensuring that any further works to the buildings at the farmstead should, as far as possible, respect the local building traditions and materials.

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

Maps

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Ordnance Survey, 1887. Cardiganshire sheet X.2. 25" to a mile

Ordnance Survey, 1887. Cardiganshire sheet X.3. 25" to a mile

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Ordnance Survey, 1904. Cardiganshire sheet X.NW. 1: 10560

Documents

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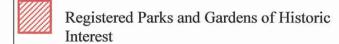
Cwm Hwylog

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/3220 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN44278 National Grid Reference SN61687769

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 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

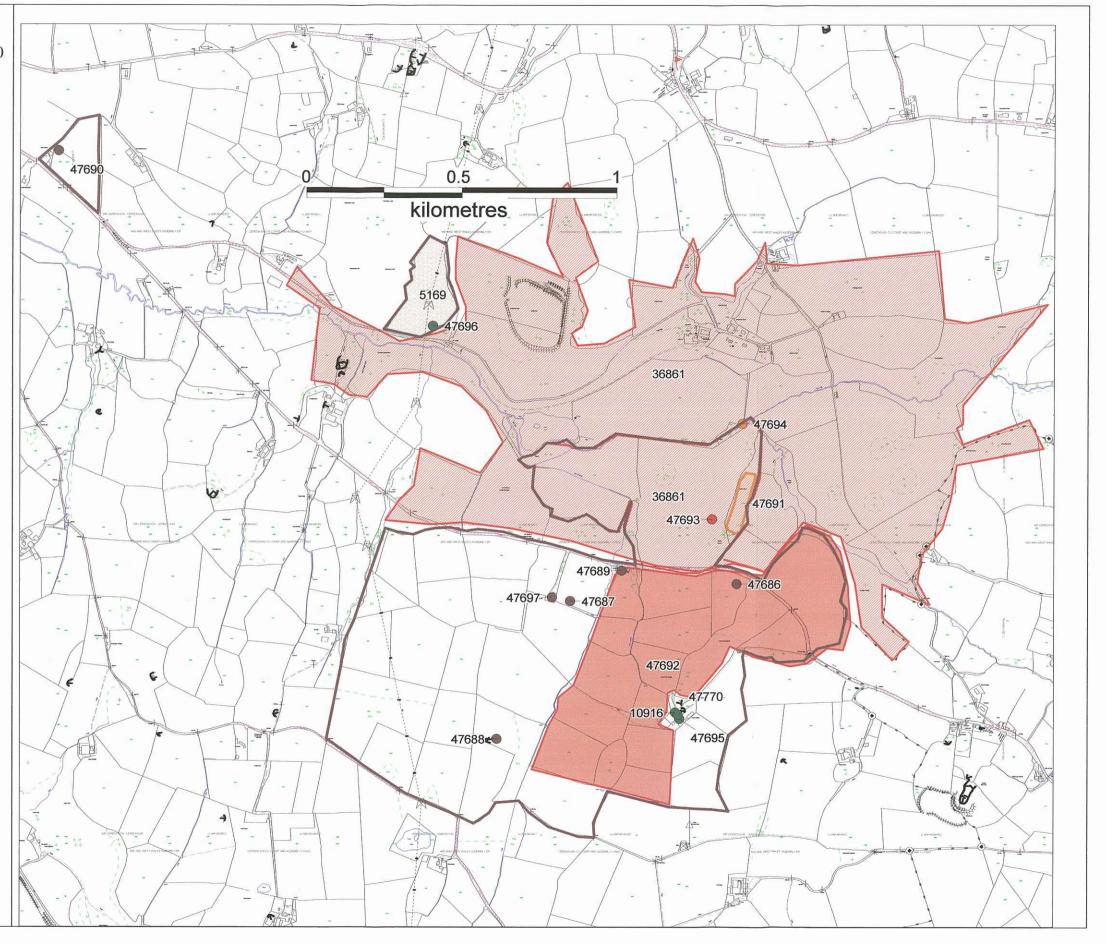
Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D – Unknown Importance

Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

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REPORT NO. 2003/48 PROJECT RECORD NO. 44278

April 2003

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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