

JAN 2003

Cwmrhyddan W/12/3021



Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report Call Out



Report No. 2002/102

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/102
PROJECT RECORD NO. 44288

January 2003

Cwmrhyddan
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report
Call Out

By

Simon Wardle

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
Ncussd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli 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

CALL OUT VISIT

Following a site visit by a Tir Gofal project officer to the farmstead of Cwmrhyddan, a follow up visit by Cambria Archaeology was requested to establish the condition of the hay barn, with the possibility of renovating and making good any areas of the building that require attention.

General Description of the farmstead

Cwmrhyddan (SN76173218) lies around 1.5 kilometres to the south of Llandovery and the mansion house (PRN 21529) there was built around 1880 in French Chateau style. Although the house no longer forms part of the Cwmrhyddan farmstead (the farmer now lives in a modern house nearby), the estate buildings and parkland still lie within the farm holding.

To the south and east of the main house are an impressive collection of Victorian estate buildings, that once included: greenhouse, stables, laundry, carpenter's workshop, and a gardener's house. Now these buildings survive in various states of repair and use, the (gardener's?) house has been conserved and is currently in use as a dwelling. The coach house garden and other ancillary structures, however, are in a much poorer state of repair.

The brick hay barn, which was the subject of the call out visit, is currently in use by the farmer, and has other structures added to its north and south sides in order to increase it's working usefulness.

General Management Recommendations

It is the owners intention to re-slate and repair where necessary the roof timbers of the hay barn at Cwmrhyddan. Structurally it also has one or two areas that require attention.

The brickwork of the supporting piers especially at the top should be made good, using appropriate matching brickwork and a suitable lime based bonding material.

The roof trusses appear to have survived in reasonable condition. Once the roof cover is lifted closer inspection of the condition of each truss will be possible. However, the presumption should be towards minimal repair rather than wholesale replacement. Where replacement is absolutely necessary careful attention should be made to the choice of replacement timber and the style of construction. The wall plates would appear to be in poor condition and will probably need replacing. Again any replacement should use an appropriate material and stylistic match for the original.

Ideally the slate roof of the hay barn should be completely reinstated and the roof of each modern extension lowered so that they sail off from the wall plate level of the barn. This will produce a more effective weathertight roof cover, as well as one which preserves the structural and stylistic integrity of the original structure. If this is not to be done and the current roof system is maintained then it is essential that any open areas at each end elevation are boarded or in some way enclosed.

Cwmrhyddan Hay Barn

The brick built hay barn at Cwmrhyddan dates to around 1880 and is part of the much larger complex of ancillary buildings associated with Cwmrhyddan house.

It is an east – west orientated range measuring around 20 metres in length by 3 metres in depth. It is constructed with a series of five(?) blue and red brick piers along the north and south faces. These piers are infilled on the north side with red brick walls but are open along the southern and west face. The piers forming the westernmost bay are also infilled with red brick walls rising to ridge height, providing an enclosed office(?) space. The roof covering for this structure is a continuous slate covered duo-pitched roof with simple 'A' frames resting on wall plates.



Plate 1 – The east end of the hay barn



Plate 2 – The west end of hay barn

Corrugated sheet extensions have been added to both the north and south faces of the hay barn. Their cat slide roofs adjoin the slate roof of the hay barn above wall plate height. This has resulted in the removal of the slate roof covering of the hay barn below the junction with the corrugated sheet roof.



Plate 3 – Hay barn roof internal



Plate 4 – South face of the hay barn, view west



Plate 5 – North west corner of the hay barn



Plate 6 – North wall, internal face

Management Recommendations

It is the owner's intention to re-slate and repair where necessary the roof timbers of the hay barn at Cwmrhyddan. Structurally it also has one or two areas that require attention.

The brickwork of the supporting piers' especially at the top, should be made good, using appropriate matching brickwork and a suitable lime based bonding material. Any hungry joints in the brickwork should also be repointed using a suitable lime mortar.

The roof trusses appear to have survived in reasonable condition except the ones at each end. Once the roof cover is lifted closer inspection of the condition of each truss will be possible. However, the presumption should be to minimal repair rather than wholesale replacement. Where

replacement is absolutely necessary careful attention should be made to the choice of replacement timber and the style of construction. The wall plates would appear to be in poor condition and will probably need replacing. Again any replacement should be an appropriate material and stylistic match for the original.

Ideally the slate roof of the hay barn should be completely reinstated and the roof of each modern extension lowered so that they sail off from the wall plate level of the barn. This will produce a more effective weathertight roof cover, as well as one which preserves the structural and stylistic integrity of the original structure. If this is not to be done and the current roof system is maintained then it is essential that any open areas at each end elevation are boarded or in some way enclosed.

Consideration should also be given to any excessive nearby tree growth, especially at the west end of the hay barn, in order to prevent damage. Also the long term structural integrity of the surrounding outbuildings at Cwmrhyddan should be given consideration. Please contact Cambria Archaeology for further advice if works are planned for the other outbuildings.



Plate 7 – W face of the coach house at Cwmryddan



Plate 8 – E face of the coach house at Cwmryddan

Cwmrhyddan W/12/3021

REPORT NUMBER 2002/102

January 2003

This report has been prepared by Simon Wardle

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature:

Date:

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

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature:  Date: 24 / 02 / 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

Tir Gofal Traditional Buildings

Requirements for General Photographic Surveys of Buildings

The purpose of the survey is to produce a photographic record of the building prior to any demolition, alterations or renovation being started, as well as recording any fixtures, fittings or features which come to light during the works. This survey may be the only record of the original form of the building available for future reference. The survey will then be referenced within the Regional Site and Monuments Record for Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion (held and managed by Cambria Archaeology), and deposited with the National Monument Record in order that the information is publicly available for study and reference.

Photographs should be taken using 35mm format colour print film (preferably Kodak or Fuji). ASA 200 film is a good standard for most light conditions but ASA 400 should be used where light conditions are poor. 36 exposure film should be used in all cases and at least one whole film must be exposed. Alternatively, a digital camera may be used. Please contact Cambria Archaeology for further information on the quality of digital image required.

Photographs should be taken of all exterior and interior wall elevations which are affected by the proposed works together with photographs of the interior roof detail where this is altered. Features of particular interest (e.g. obvious differences in wall makeup, windows and doors whether blocked up or not, fireplaces, timber framing) should also be fully photographed. If available a scale, of noted measurement, should be placed within any detailed shots but this is not essential.

A plan of the building is also required to record the direction in which each of the photographs has been taken. Architectural drawings can be used where available or a sketch plan can be produced. Location reference numbers on the plans should be copied onto the backs of the prints together with brief descriptive details of the location. If using a digital camera this information should be used to name the photographs.

A copy of the survey should be provided to Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6HU either directly or via the Countryside Council for Wales Tir Gofal Project Officer.