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# **Abergwenlais W/12/3198**

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



Report No. 2003/68

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Abergwenlais  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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## **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>20</b>
<b>References</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Farm Map</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Quality Assurance Report</b>	<b>24</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 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

Abergwenlais lies just south of Cilycwm, at grid reference SN76053918. It falls inside the parish of Cilycwm, and also completely within Cilycwm Historic Landscape Character Area. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003.

The farm consists of two land holdings – W/12/3198 and W/12/3198/a. Only the first of these was visited on this occasion, and consequently only general recommendations are made about the sites in the other holding.

Cilycwm Historic Landscape Character Area stretches around the present village, and along the river valley. It includes several gentry houses which date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the 19<sup>th</sup> century – the largest of these, Neuadd Fawr, was first mentioned in 1603 (Jones,F:1987:p.138) and became ruinous in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Abergwenlais itself lies in the fertile Towy Valley and consists of gently rolling land. The Gwenlas river runs through the west part of the farm, in a narrow belt of woodland. Field boundaries mostly consist of hedgebanks and grown-out hedges, sometimes supplemented with wire fencing.

The farmstead itself (PRN 24903) comprises the farmhouse (PRN 48073) which is Grade II listed, a large barn (PRN 48072), a cowshed (PRN 48071), pigsties (PRN 48070) and a cartshed (PRN 48069). It was the home of the Price family from 1680 to around 1860 (Jones,F:1987:p3) when it was acquired by the Neuadd Fawr estate and substantially re-built.

Two main phases of development are visible in the farmstead. The first, as seen on the 1831 Ordnance Survey map and the 1844 parish tithe map, shows Abergwenlais to be a substantial and probably prosperous arable farm. A large barn with two threshing floors and the three-bay cartshed attest to the amount of grain being processed through this holding at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Between 1844 and 1891, significant changes took place at Abergwenlais. The farmstead was acquired by the Neuadd Fawr estate, and the house was largely re-built. The barn lost one of its threshing floors, and a new cowshed was built which butted up against the barn. A doorway was knocked into the barn wall, allowing access between the two, and effectively creating a single range of buildings. It may have been at this time that the third bay of the cartshed was blocked in. The pigsties were also built and the main driveway (PRN 48075) seems to have fallen partially out of use. Previously, the main access to the farm was along a tree-lined drive which ran to the northeast of the farmstead. However, on the 1891 map the main access seems to be along the present lane to the southwest of the farm. Although the previous drive is still depicted, it is seen as a minor trackway which links to another farm track just southwest of Rhydwydd Farm.

Another noticeable feature at this time is the loss of two cottages which had been recorded on the tithe map (PRNs 48064 and 48065). It is possible that this was a result of the changing ownership of the land.

These changes are likely to reflect a change in both the status of Abergwenlais, and in its farming practices. Clearly the emphasis on grain had shifted to a more mixed farming regime, with livestock playing a greater role. The general status of the farm also seems to have increased at this time. Architectural details such as the arched stone entrances of the cowshed, and the half-hipped east gable of the barn display more aesthetic consideration than may be expected for average farm buildings.

The farmstead today still retains much of its 'planned' character, with the buildings arranged semi-formally around a yard, and the house separated. All of the buildings display modern modifications which affect their appearances, although their original characters are still discernible.

Abergwenlais also has two probable prehistoric sites situated just north and west of the farmstead. These are burnt mounds (PRNs 13990 and 29904) and may date to the Bronze Age. Burnt mounds take the form of mounds of fire-cracked stones which have normally become turf covered. Excavation of the sites frequently reveals troughs or pits which normally could fill with water unaided – either by being near to a watercourse, or in boggy ground. These sites are often interpreted as cooking sites – heated stones could be used to bring the water to a temperature sufficient to cook in. They have also been interpreted as sauna sites, and it has been suggested that some form of ritual bathing may have been undertaken.

The first mound (PRN 13990) is the clearest and most easily identifiable. It is roughly crescent shaped, and shows up as a clear, if slight, turf-covered mound. It lies in an area of pasture, and is generally in good condition though there is some cattle-trampling evident on the side nearest the river. The other (PRN 29904) is much less well defined, and was not definitely identified on this field visit. It probably lies in an area of undergrowth a few metres away from a stream.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Abergwenlais Farmstead (PRN 24903)**

Specific management recommendations have been given for individual buildings, but a few general points need to be considered across the farmstead as a whole. All of the buildings display a considerable amount of modification which has taken place throughout a long period. However, modern additions to the farmstead and alterations to the buildings are in danger of obscuring the original character and lay-out of the buildings. At present the historic character of the farmstead is not significantly eroded, but consideration should be given to the siting of any future additional buildings and to the appropriate maintenance of the existing buildings. Since each of them display a variety of building techniques and materials it is important that the materials and techniques selected for their future repair match those used in the construction of that part of the building. Although stone is the main building medium, brick may be more appropriate than stone where brick features (mostly window and doorway arches) have been inserted historically. The alterations to the buildings are a record of the 'story' of the farmstead and it is important that this is retained.

### **Cartshed (PRN 48069)**

A stone-built cartshed, originally three-bay. One of these is now blocked, and the other two are partially blocked and in use as animal stalls. The upper floor seems to be largely disused. In general the building is in a stable condition. However, one upper-storey window at the west end is only blocked with polythene, and the glass in this should be replaced in order to ensure that the upstairs of the building remains dry and weatherproof. The steps up to the granary are also becoming very overgrown, and this needs to be addressed before the upper storey becomes inaccessible. Vegetation should be cut back flush with the stonework, and, if necessary, treated to prevent re-growth.

Some consideration needs to be given to the future of this building. It is an integral part of the farmstead, and is all the more significant since it is one of the earlier buildings. A use should be found for the upper storey of this building in order to secure its long term future.

### **Burnt Mound (PRN 13990)**

The site should continue to be kept under pasture, and no ground intrusive activities should take place within 5m of the edge of the site. At present the cattle trampling on the side nearest the river is not severe but it needs to be monitored. If the poaching gets worse or the grass cover is substantially reduced, then the mound should be temporarily fenced out to allow the vegetation to recover. It may be necessary to restrict winter grazing to short periods on this site to prevent further erosion in wet weather.



## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

### Land holding W/12/3198

PRN	13990	Site Name	Grid Reference	SN75973929
Site Type	BURNT MOUND	Period	BRONZE AGE?	

#### Description

A burnt mound, roughly crescent shaped. The mound was augured in 1994, and burnt soil and stones were found. The mound measures about 18m x 9m, and stands up to 1m high at its highest point. It lies only a few metres away from a watercourse. In general, the site is in good condition, and under pasture, but some cattle trampling is evident on the side nearest the river.

#### Recommendations

The site should continue to be kept under pasture, and no ground intrusive activities should take place within 5m of the edge of the site. At present the cattle trampling is not severe but it needs to be monitored. If the poaching gets worse or the grass cover is substantially reduced, then the mound should be temporarily fenced out to allow the vegetation to recover. It may be necessary to restrict winter grazing to short periods on this site to prevent further erosion in wet weather.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 1.** The burnt mound (PRN 13990), just visible in the corner of the field. The side nearest the river is suffering from some cattle trampling.

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<b>PRN</b>	19533	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid</b>	SN75903899
			CORN MILL	<b>Reference</b>	
<b>Site Type</b>	MILL	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL	<b>Site status</b>	LISTED BUILDINGS, GRADE II.

#### **Description**

A corn mill and outbuildings which are grade II listed. This complex lies outside the farm boundary and therefore was not visited on this occasion.

#### **Recommendations**

No management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	24903	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76053918
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

Abergwenlais farmstead. This comprises the farmhouse itself (PRN 48073) which is Grade II listed, a large barn (PRN 48072), a cowshed (PRN 48071), pigsties (PRN 48070) and a cartshed (PRN 48069).

The farmstead was apparently the home of the Price family from 1680 to around 1860 (Jones,F:1987:p3) when it was acquired by the Neuadd Fawr estate and substantially re-built.

#### **Recommendations**

See management recommendations for individual buildings.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	29904	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN75933922
<b>Site Type</b>	BURNT MOUND	<b>Period</b>	BRONZE AGE?		

#### **Description**

A burnt mound which is recorded as being a small, roughly circular mound, with plough damage on one side. The mound was not definitely located on this visit. However, the small paddock in which the mound was located does contain a large amount of surface stone, though none of this was obviously burnt. A possible slight mound was located in an area of undergrowth, but the exact shape could not be made out.

#### **Recommendations**

No ground intrusive activities should take place within this small paddock. The area would benefit from being lightly grazed in order to control the incursion of scrub and weeds.

**Site Category** D



<b>PRN</b>	48064	<b>Site Name</b>	RHOS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN75764005
<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

The site of a cottage which was marked on the 1844 tithe map and not seen on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. There are no standing remains of the building, but the enclosure which surrounded it survives. It is roughly rectangular, around 35m x 20m, and bounded on the southwest by a stream, and on the northeast side by a substantial hedgebank which stands up to 1m high. Trees growing along the hedgebank clearly show the traces of having been a laid hedge. Some scattered large stones around the enclosure may be all that remains of the cottage itself.

The enclosure is heavily overgrown, but mostly by nettles rather than larger scrub plants.

### Recommendations

At present, the site is in a stable condition. The surviving hedgebank should be left in place, and no ground intrusive works should be undertaken within the enclosure.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 2.** One of the trees in the hedgebank which surrounds the site of Rhos Cottage (PRN 48064). This clearly shows traces of being deliberately laid as a hedge.

**PRN** 48065 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN75873985

**Site Type** COTTAGE **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

**Description**

The site of a cottage marked on the 1844 tithe map and lost by 1891, when the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map was published. The area has been extensively ploughed, and there are no above-ground remains of this cottage, nor any sign of a building platform or of the cottage enclosure. The building stones are probably to be found in a nearby clearance cairn (PRN 48066).

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply. Please contact Cambria Archaeology if any finds are made in this field.

**Site Category** D

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**PRN** 48066 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN75843985

**Site Type** CLEARANCE CAIRN **Period** MODERN

**Description**

A clearance cairn, comprising regular-sized lumps of stone. These are probably the remains of a cottage (PRN 48065), which was seen in this field on the 1844 tithe map. The clearance cairn forms a discrete feature in one corner of the field.

**Recommendations**

This feature should be left in place.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	48067	<b>Site Name</b>	WYRDDOL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN75583938
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<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL
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#### **Description**

A cottage site marked on 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps. There are no standing remains of the building, but a triangular enclosure still exists. The south side of the enclosure is level with the road, and the ground inside the enclosure seems to have been levelled since there is a substantial drop from the northeast side down to the level of the river. This forms a kind of platform upon which the cottage would have stood, surrounded by roughly flat ground. Along the northeast edge, below the pronounced bank which marks the edge of the enclosure, is a slightly sunken channel, around 2-3m wide with a flat base. This was probably some kind of road or trackway.

The enclosure is an area of woodland. It is heavily overgrown with trees and scrub.

#### **Recommendations**

The banks surrounding the enclosure should be left in place, and not damaged. No ground intrusive activities should take place in this area. Occasional light grazing or other vegetation control will ensure that the scrub does not completely obscure this feature. Vegetation should not be dug or dragged out, but should be cut at ground level and removed.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	48068	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN75773915
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<b>Site Type</b>	MILL RACE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL
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#### **Description**

The mill race serving Abergwenlais Corn Mill (PRN 19533). The route of the race is seen in detail on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map. Most of the length of the race is outside this farm's boundary. The race could not be identified on the ground.

#### **Recommendations**

Those parts of the race which do fall within this farm's boundary lie within an area of woodland. If any earthworks become visible when the vegetation is lower, then please contact Cambria Archaeology. Woodland management plans should take into account the potential for surviving archaeology in the woods south of the river in this holding.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	48069	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76023918
<b>Site Type</b>	CARTSHED	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

A three-bay cartshed with granary over. The western bay is now completely blocked, the other two are partially blocked and in use as animal shelters. Access to the granary is via a set of steps which run up the east gable end. These are still useable, but are becoming very overgrown. The upstairs seems to be in use only for light storage and for the dumping of farm waste, and seems to be in a stable condition.

The cartshed is one of only 3 buildings which are seen on the 1844 tithe map as making up the farmstead at Abergwenlais. The other two are the barn (PRN 48072) and the house (PRN 48073), although the house and barn have undergone extensive re-building. Some modification has also been carried out on the cartshed. The arches are presumably original, they have simple stone surrounds which are in keeping with the rubble stone construction of the building. Later, windows with brick surrounds have been inserted into the upper storey, and into the now-blocked cartshed bay. In a 3<sup>rd</sup> main phase of modification, a modern building has been constructed which butts up against the west end of the cartshed, and at least one window has been completely blocked in. This may also have been when the two remaining cartshed bays were converted into animal stalls. It is impossible to precisely date the origins of the cartshed. However, Abergwenlais was apparently the home of the Price family between 1680 and around 1860 (Jones,F:1987:p.3) so the earliest part of the building may substantially pre-date the tithe map.

### **Recommendations**

In general the building is in a stable condition. However, one upper-storey window at the west end is only blocked with polythene, and the glass in this should be replaced in order to ensure that the upstairs of the building remains dry and weatherproof. The steps up to the granary are also becoming very overgrown, and this needs to be addressed before the upper storey becomes inaccessible. Vegetation should be cut back flush with the stonework, and, if necessary, treated to prevent re-growth.

Future maintenance and repairs should use materials and techniques which are sympathetic to the original construction of the building.

Some consideration needs to be given to the future of this building. It is an integral part of the farmstead, and is all the more significant since it is one of the earlier buildings. A use should be found for the upper storey of this building in order to secure its long term future.

**Site Category** B





**Plate 3.** *The cartshed (PRN 48069) with steps up to the granary. The building displays a number of modifications from a variety of periods. It originally had three arches, one of which is now blocked in (visible on the right of the picture). Later windows with brick surrounds are visible in the upper storey, and the modern, partial blocking of the lower arches allows them to be used as animal stalls.*

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<b>PRN</b>	48070	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76023918
<b>Site Type</b>	PIGSTY	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

A stone-built pigsty which originally had four pens. Three are still in good repair, and are either still in use, or fell out of use very recently. The runs have stone walls which have been repaired with red brick and made higher with cement. They have modern metal doors. The fourth pen, the east one, has fallen out of use and is heavily overgrown, and its run is now lost. The building is constructed as a kind of slate-roofed 'lean-to' on the southwest side of the cartshed (PRN 48069), and is shown on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map.

Generally this building is in a stable condition. However, the site of the fourth pen is very overgrown, and a young tree is beginning to rub against the stonework of the cartshed (PRN 48069). Some vegetation is also growing in other pens.

### **Recommendations**

Future maintenance should utilise materials which are sympathetic to the original construction of the farmstead.

The vegetation growing in the site of the fourth pen needs to be cut back and removed, and the tree should either be removed, or be maintained so that branches are not in contact with the stonework. The other pens also need some vegetation control.

**Site Category** C

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PRN	48071	Site Name	ABERGWENLAIS	Grid Reference	SN76023920
Site Type	COWSHED	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A stone built cow-shed, which has been considerably modified, and extended on the west side. At its north end, the stonework of this building butts up to the west end of the barn (PRN 48072), and the roof timbers of the two buildings have been tied in together.

This cow-shed is not seen on the 1844 tithe map, but is in place by 1891.

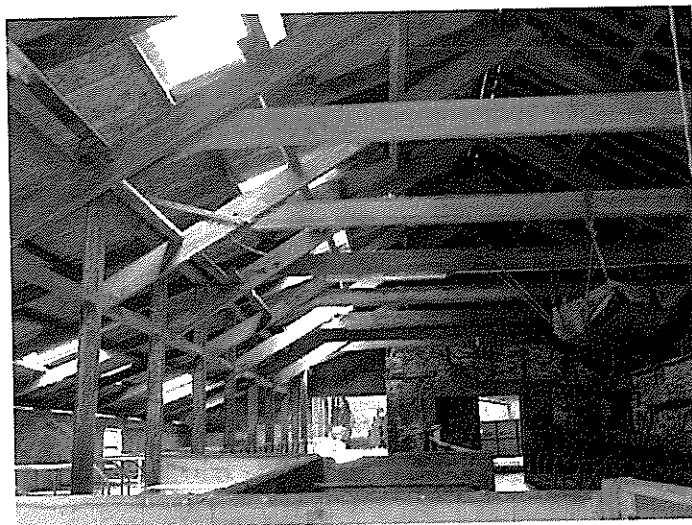
Externally, the building is mostly obscured by modern buildings which have been erected to the west of the cowshed. The south gable is cement rendered, and has had two modern doorways knocked through. Internally, the building clearly shows both the original plan and a modern extension. The east side of the building is original stonework, and has a number of simple arched entrances which have been partly blocked.

The roof is supported on A-frame trusses which rest on the top of the east wall. The original west wall is now gone, and the A-frame is supported on this side by a series of iron girders. A newer tin roof has been added which runs from the apex of the original roof at a shallower angle than the A-frames, and rests on a new west wall. This effectively extends the width of the building by around one third.

### Recommendations

This building is in good condition and in use. It should be ensured that any future modifications do not obscure what remains of the original structure of the building, and that repairs and maintenance works are carried out in materials which are appropriate to the part of the building in which the work is to be carried out. The slate roofing on the east side of the building should be retained.

Site Category C



**Plate 4.** Interior of the cowshed (PRN 48071). Iron girders (left of the picture) support the original A-frame roof trusses and a new tin roof extends the building out to the left. The original stone wall is visible on the right, and the stone building at the far end of the picture is the west end of the barn (PRN 48072) which has been incorporated into this building.



<b>PRN</b>	48072	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76043921
<b>Site Type</b>	BARN	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A large stone barn which has clearly undergone several phases of building. The cowshed (PRN 48071) butts up to the southwest wall of the barn, and is clearly a later addition to the farmstead since it truncates one of the now-blocked barn doors. The building is slate roofed, with a half-hipped gable at the east end.

The barn is seen on the 1844 tithe map and probably substantially pre-dates that since Abergwenlais was apparently the home of the Price family between 1680 and around 1860 (Jones,F:1987:p.3).

The inside of the southwest elevation shows most clearly the various alterations which have taken place. At present, the barn has one pair of large double doorways, which stand the full height of the building and form a cross passage. Another pair of doorways, of the same size, were situated to the west, but one is now blocked in, and partially hidden by the cowshed (PRN 48071). On the inside, the doors have large, curved wooden lintels above them.

A doorway in the upper storey of the east gable would have given access to a lofted area, above another now-blocked door at the east end of the barn. This door has the same kind of lintel as the main doors, but stands only around half the height of the building. Splayed ventilation shafts with wooden lintels are situated between each door, though some of these are now blocked also. This building was probably originally a threshing barn, with two threshing floors (one between each pair of doors) and a lofted cowshed, (or perhaps a cartshed) at the east end. Wiliam (1986:p152) comments that barns with two threshing floors were a rare sight in most of Wales, indicating the relative prosperity of this farm.

Some time later, (probably between 1844 and 1891) the large west door, and the smaller, half-height east door were blocked in. The cowshed was put up, which cuts across the blocked west door and a smaller doorway was inserted within the blocked older one. This doorway allowed access between the cowshed and the barn. The roof timbers of the two buildings were also tied in together, although the stonework only butts up – there is no structural join.

The east end of the barn no longer has a loft, but it is not clear when this second storey was removed. It is possible that the east gable has also been substantially re-built.

Other blocked windows and inserted ventilation slits indicate that the barn was constantly being altered and adapted to play new roles in the running of the farm.

Modern alterations include a new, breeze-block surrounded doorway which has been knocked through between the cowshed and the barn. This replaces a smaller, wood-lintelled doorway which is now blocked in. Several of the ventilation shafts are half-blocked, either with bricks or breeze-blocks.

The barn records the changing status and fortunes of the farm at Abergwenlais. Initially, the building was large, but quite simple in form. The fact that this barn and the granary/cartshed are the only farm buildings recorded on the tithe map indicates that Abergwenlais was primarily an arable holding. During the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Neuadd Fawr estate absorbed many holdings in the area, and it is likely that the house at Abergwenlais was substantially re-built for the estate (Murphy,K and Ludlow,N:2000). The cowshed (PRN 48072) was put up at around this

time too, indicating a shift in emphasis from arable to livestock farming.

The barn as it currently stands is an impressive building, and is in good condition. It is a dominant feature of the farmstead at Abergwenlais.

### **Recommendations**

The barn is in good condition, and is stable and weatherproof. No further alterations should be made to this building, beyond routine maintenance and repairs. These should be carried out using materials and techniques which are sympathetic to the construction of that part of the building.

**Site Category**     B



**Plate 5 (above).** *The impressive southwest elevation of the barn (PRN 48072) showing one of the large doors into the threshing floor.*

**Plate 6 (below).** *The interior of the southwest elevation shows clearly the amount of modification the barn has undergone. Here the curved wooden lintel at the top of the wall marks the site of another large door. The wooden lintel below represents a door which gave access into the cowshed (PRN 48071) and has been replaced by the modern door with breeze-block surrounds. In the top right hand corner of the picture it can be seen that the roofs of the barn and cowshed were tied in together, even though the stonework was not.*



<b>PRN</b>	48073	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76053918
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMHOUSE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL	<b>Site status</b>	LISTED BUILDING: GRADE II

#### **Description**

A grade II listed farmhouse, part of the Abergwenlais farmstead (PRN 24903). The original house dated back to the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Jones,F:1987:p.3), but the extant house was probably the result of substantial re-building in the 19th century, when Abergwenlais became part of the Neuadd Fawr estate (Murphy,K and Ludlow,N:2000). An alteration in the ground plan of the house had clearly taken place between the 1844 tithe map and the 1891 Ordnance Survey map.

#### **Recommendations**

The house is inhabited as a private dwelling, and is therefore outside the Tir Gofal scheme.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	48074	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76033915
<b>Site Type</b>	POND	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A roughly circular farm pond seen on historic maps. It is around 15m in diameter, and partially infilled, but the banks are still clearly visible, and there seems to have been little disturbance. The farmer has expressed an interest in the restoration of this pond through the Tir Gofal scheme.

#### **Recommendations**

It should be ensured that the original banks are not damaged during any restoration works carried out, and ground intrusive activity should be avoided in the area immediately surrounding the pond. Clearance of modern material which infills the pond should respect the original profile of the banks – no material should be removed from the banks themselves.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	48075	<b>Site Name</b>	ABERGWENLAIS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN76083919
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<b>Site Type</b>	DRIVEWAY	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL
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**Description**

A slightly sunken track, which is seen on the Ordnance Survey 1834 map as a tree-lined driveway. Only the south part of this driveway survives as a pronounced, sunken trackway with stone-walling along the east side.

**Recommendations**

The site of this driveway should be maintained as a visible feature. This may involve routine vegetation and scrub clearance.

**Site Category** C

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**Land Holding W/12/3198/a**

<b>PRN</b>	1887	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN65303970
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<b>Site Type</b>	FINDSPOT	<b>Period</b>	ROMAN
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**Description**

An urn, thought to be a Romano-British cremation urn, was discovered on land at Cwrt y Cilion in 1909. It was described as being '*on the left bank of the River Cothi, and about 25 yards from the water*' (RCAHMW:1917:p.37).

This site is in an area which is well known for Roman archaeology. It lies in close proximity to the mines at Dolaucothi, and to the Roman road and fort at Llandovery.

**Recommendations**

If any further finds are made, please contact Cambria Archaeology. It is important that this area is protected since it is potentially very sensitive and may contain significant archaeology. The area within 20 metres of either side of the Cothi should not be ploughed, and archaeological advice should be sought before undertaking any groundbreaking activities.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	48076	<b>Site Name</b>	CWRT Y CILION	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN65813967
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A farmstead seen on historic maps. It was not visited on this occasion. The farmstead is apparently inhabited as a private dwelling, and is not part of Abergwenlais' land.

#### **Recommendations**

No management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	48077	<b>Site Name</b>	WERNDDU	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN64943972
<b>Site Type</b>	COTTAGE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A cottage seen on the 1840 tithe map and the Ordnance Survey 1891 map. It is unknown what survives of this building. The site was not visited on this occasion.

#### **Recommendations**

Maintain any above-ground remains of the building or enclosure in a stable and visible condition. Ground intrusive works should not be carried out in this area.

**Site Category** D

## **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**



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Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XVIII.NW (6" to 1 mile)  
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XVII.NW (6" to 1 mile)  
Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire XVIII.1 (1"to 1 mile)  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire XVI.NE (6" to 1 mile)  
RCAHMW:1917:*An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire. County of Carmarthen*.  
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Tithe map 1840 Conwil Gaeo Parish [Conwyl Gaio]  
Wiliam,E:1986:*The Historical Farm Buildings of Wales*




# Abergwenlais

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3198  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45615  
 National Grid Reference SN76053918


 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

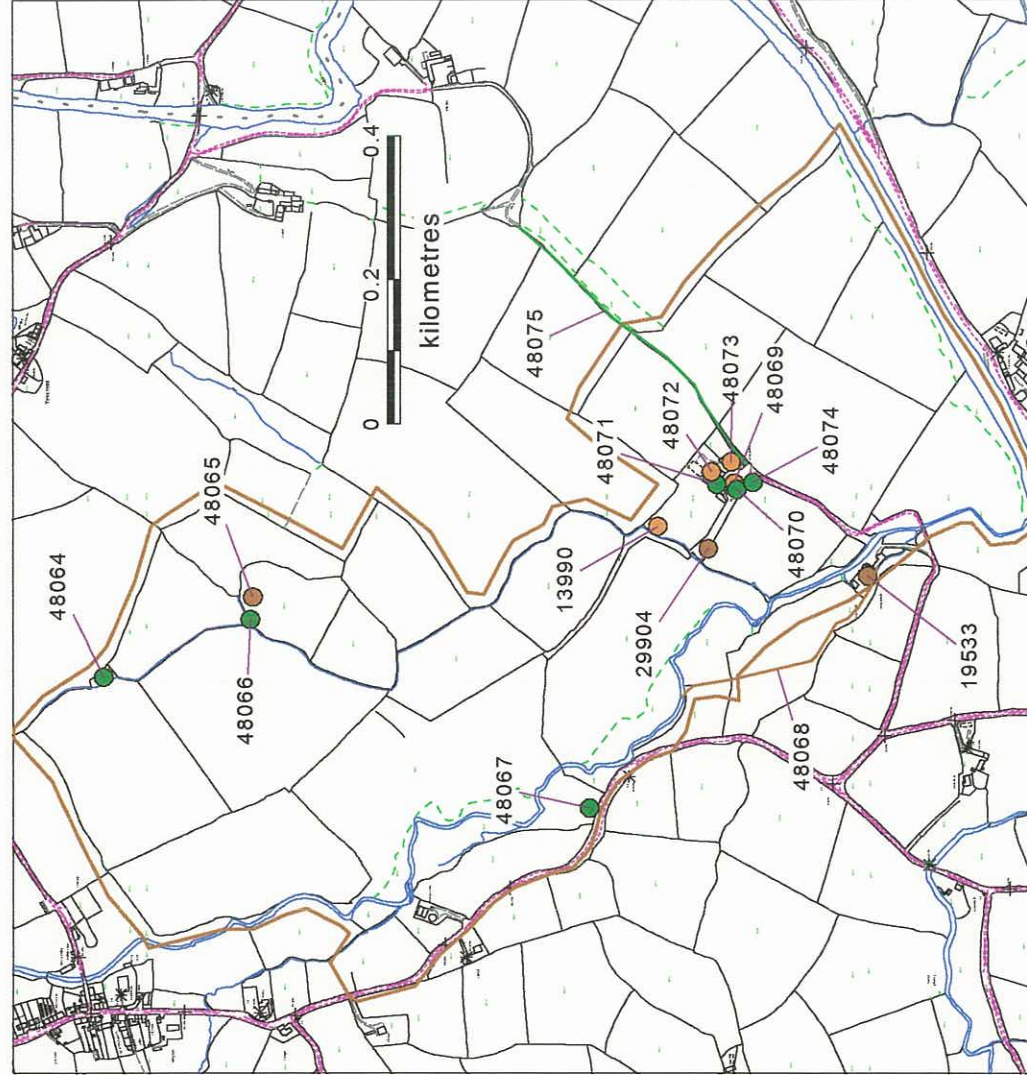
 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest

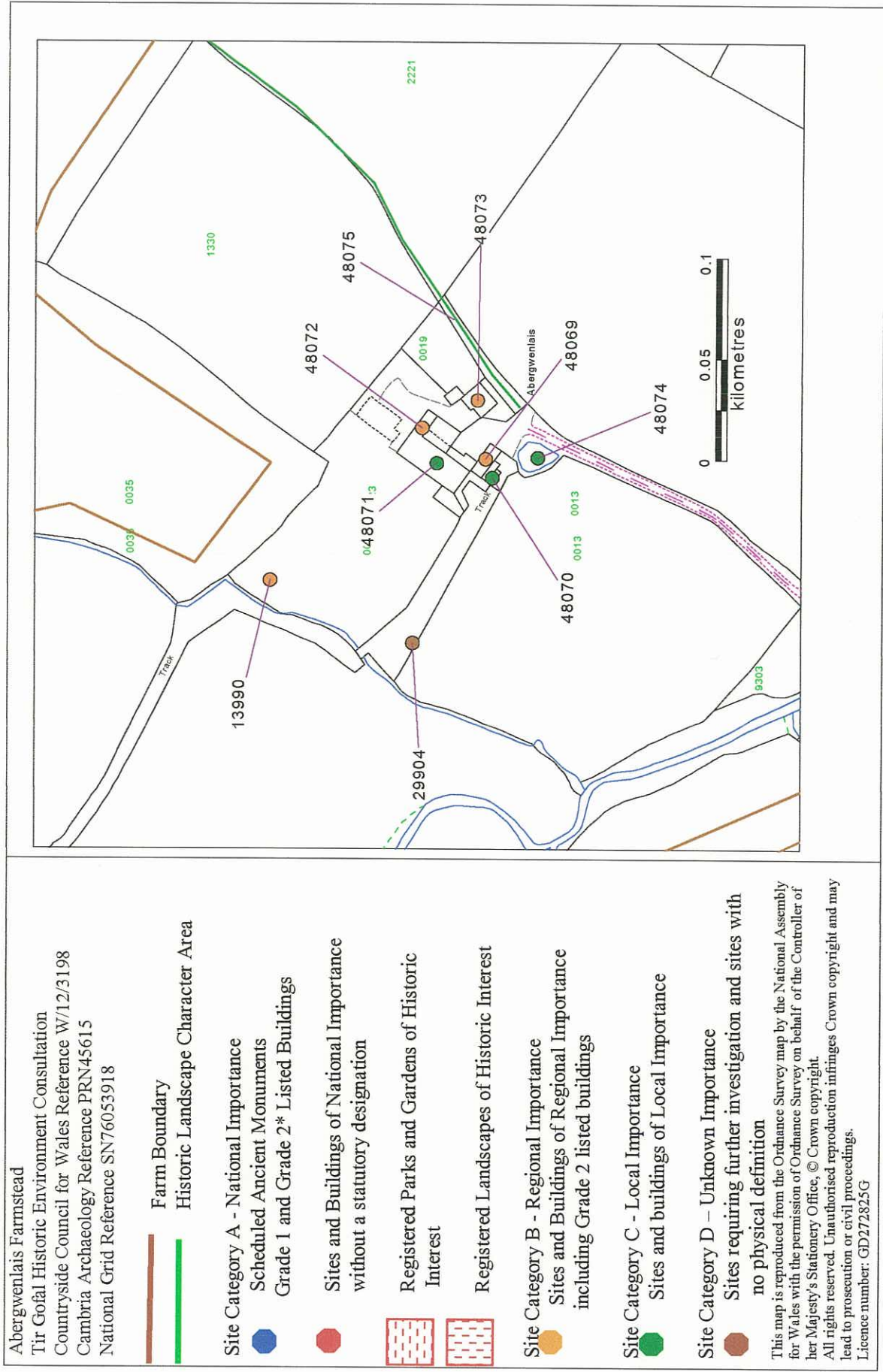
Site Category B - Regional Importance  
 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance including Grade 2 listed buildings

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

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# Abergwylais


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3198/a  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45615  
 National Grid Reference SN65813967


 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

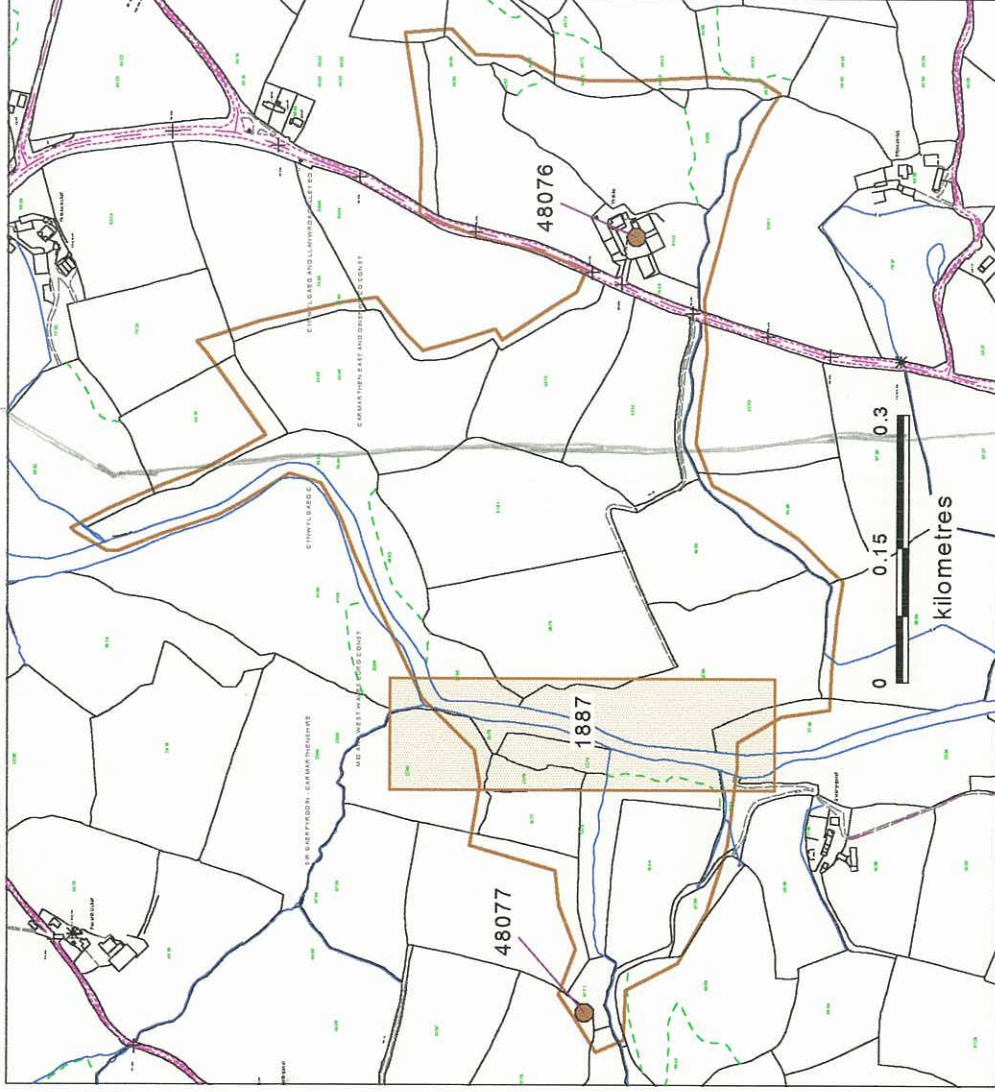
 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest

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

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**Abergwenlais  
W/12/3198**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/68**

**June 2003**

This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

Position: Heritage Management Assistant

Signature P. Groom Date 24/06/2003

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

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 30/06/03

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