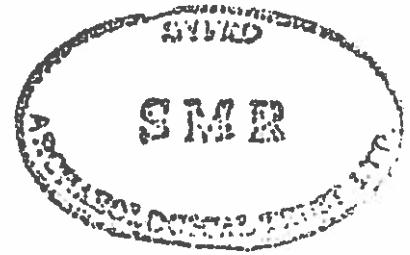


JAN 2003

Cilsant
W/12/2832



Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2002/104

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2002/104
PROJECT RECORD NO. 45631

January 2003

Cilsant
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By
Simon Wardle

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ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Trefladaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: 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

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Method Statement	3
General Description of farm	4
Main Management Recommendations	4
Gazetteer of Sites and Monuments	6
Site and Area Status Glossary	19
References	19
Quality Assurance Report	20
Farm Map	

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 49690
Cilsant farm lies 2.5 miles to the north west of Meidrim on the eastern tip of a spur that overlooks the confluence of the Sien and Gynin. It includes some impressive examples of Carmarthenshire vernacular architecture. Both the house (PRN 47113) and stable / cow-house range (PRN47121) are Listed Grade II and are both key elements of the historic farmstead.

The dwelling of Cilsant is an old established farm and is home of one of the oldest Welsh families. The remains of a medieval fortified dwelling at Cilsant (PRN 12618) have previously been identified but no evidence was seen during the Tir Gofal site visit. Cilsant is shadowed by the remains of a hillfort to the east (PRN 3969), and there are a number of other prehistoric sites (standing stone – PRN 47164; cropmark – PRN 3970) and recorded find spots (inscribed stone – PRN 3967; Bronze Age axe – PRN 3971). There is other evidence of a later post-medieval landscape with the substantial stone sided trackway (PRN 47114) and cottage site (PRN 47124).

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PRN 3969 Hillfort and PRN 3970 Cropmark

Although heavily damaged and eroded the hillfort is an important historic landscape feature which might contain much surviving buried archaeological remains relating to defensive and domestic structures and activities.

In order to protect any buried archaeological remains within the hillfort and the area of the cropmark, no ground breaking activities should take place within the vicinity of either site and no animal feeders should be placed within 15 metres of the upstanding banks of the hillfort. The surrounding fields all contain possible buried archaeology and should not be subject to any ground breaking activities such as ploughing.

It is understood that the farmer wishes to reinstate the hedgerows in and around the hillfort. Any such work should be restricted to existing hedgerow banks. As part of any hedgerow works, there should be no permanent fencing erected either within or around 15m from the surviving hillfort earthworks.

PRN 47118 Combination farm building

Although the granary is currently used for storage, the rest of this building is not presently in use and is beginning to show general signs of neglect. Ideally doors and windows should be replaced / repaired, the stonework repointed where necessary, and the steps at the south end rebuilt in order to secure the medium term future of this buildings. Any repairs or work on this structure should use traditional materials and methods.

PRN 47121 Combination farm building

It is understood that the farmer wishes to repair the slate roof cover of the stables and where necessary repair the timber framework underneath. If these works are to be undertaken then it is essential to remove the slates with care to enable as many as possible to be reused. Any

replacements should be a good match for the existing slates. A brief inspection showed that the roof timbers were in reasonable condition, although any defective areas should be repaired where necessary. The wall tops and areas of stonework around the two pitching holes (?) and doorway should be repaired and where necessary rebuilt using lime mortar and replacement stonework to match. Ideally the shutters to each pitching hole should also be replaced using timber and made to a suitable design.

On a longer term basis consideration should be given to repointing the external faces in lime mortar, repair/replacement of internal joists and floorboards, and rebuilding and repair of the external stairs at the north end. If these tasks are considered now then it will ensure the long term viability of the building as a usable structure.

As well as care of the fabric, active thought should be given to the future of the cow house section of the building. The farmer indicated that it was no longer practical to use it as a farm building and it has certain problems which would make it difficult to convert for other purposes. Again, pre-emptive thought about the future conservation of this building should ensure its long term viability.

If any works are to be undertaken it is essential that the owner contacts the Conservation Officer at his Local Authority in order to find out if Listed Building Consent is required for the intended works. They then should be able to advise how the farmer should proceed.

PRN 47124 Cottage

The excavation of the pond has possibly destroyed much in the way of buried archaeological remains, although much may still survive. Ground breaking works should be restricted to areas that have been disturbed in the construction of the pond and the hedgerow enclosure around this site should be maintained.

PRN 47164 Standing Stone

Maintain as a historic landscape feature. This stone or the area around it within a radius of at least 15 metres should not be disturbed.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	3967	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26772383
Site Type	INSCRIBED STONE	Period	Dark Age		

Description

This has been described as a stone 'with some letters on it' found at the western edge of hillfort PRN 3969. It has now been lost from this location and there is no information about its current location or about its exact form. It is possible that this stone could date to between the 5th and 11th centuries.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations. If any further information is known about this inscribed stone, please contact Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN	3969	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26812384
Site Type	HILLFORT	Period	Iron Age		

Description

This hillfort sits on the point of a low sloping spur, projecting from the high ground to the west into a valley with an imposing position overlooking the valley to the north, east and south. It survives as a semi-circular bank and platform on the north side of a field boundary which bisects the original plan of the hillfort. The section of hillfort to the south of this boundary has largely been lost (through ploughing?) although traces can just be seen continuing south into the field at the east end. The western section of the surviving northern half remains as a high (c. 1 metre) bank whilst to the east it degenerates to a low break of slope.

Recommendations

Although heavily damaged and eroded this hillfort is an important historic landscape feature which might contain much surviving buried archaeological remains relating to defensive and domestic structures and activities.

In order to protect any buried archaeological remains no ground breaking activities should take place within the vicinity of this hillfort and no animal feeders should be placed within 15 metres of its upstanding banks. The surrounding fields all contain possible buried archaeology (PRNs 3970 and 12618) and should not be subject to any ground breaking activities, such as ploughing.

It is understood that the farmer wishes to reinstate the hedgerows in and around this hillfort, any such work should be restricted to existing hedgerow banks. As part of any hedgerow works, there

should be no permanent fencing erected either within or around 15m from the surviving hillfort earthworks.

Site Category B



Plate 1 – Looking east towards Hillfort PRN 3969

PRN	3970	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26752370
Site Type	CROPMARK	Period	Unknown		

Description

This is a cropmark (a feature that has been identified through patterns of vegetation growth or different coloured soils) shown on aerial photographs and appearing as a series of two/three? interlocking sub-circular enclosures below and to the south of hillfort PRN 3969. Another cropmark line extends northwards from the eastern edge of the enclosures up the slope towards the hillfort.

Recommendations

As with the nearby hillfort PRN 3969, no groundbreaking activities should take place within the area of the cropmark in order to protect any buried archaeological remains.

Site Category D



Plate 2 – Looking south over the area of Cropmark PRN 3970

PRN	3971	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26552393
Site Type	FINDS	Period	Bronze Age		

Description

It is recorded that a Bronze Age socketed axe of West Wales type was found at the farmstead of Cilsant and then kept at Whitland school Museum. Its current location is unknown.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations. If any further information is known about this artefact, please contact Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN	12618	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26602390
Site Type	FORTIFIED DWELLING	Period	Medieval		

Description

It is recorded that there are some 'stone foundations to the east of the present house' at Cilsant, shown on the Rees map of 14th century South Wales and identified during a site visit by Cambria Archaeology in 1984. However no evidence of any stone foundations to the east of the house (PRN 47113) were seen during the site visit.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category D

PRN	47113	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN265723911
Site Type	MAJOR DWELLING	Period	Post Medieval	Site Status	LB2

Description

This is a fine 18th century Grade II listed gentry house. It is of an L-plan rubble stone construction, with a three window rendered west facing front and big stone end stacks.

It has been recorded as the home of one of the oldest West Wales families. The first known member of the family was Lwch Llawen Fawr described as Lord of Cilsant. A carucate of land on the west side of the "Castle of Rees ap Bledri" was granted to St.John's Hospitallers of Slebech confirming the existence of Cilsant as a fortified dwelling C. 1150-76. In 1774 it was let to farming tenants and by 1861 most of the "ancient mansion" had been pulled down. The present farmhouse is supposed to retain 'antique features'.

Recommendations

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

Site Category B

Plate 3 – Cilsant farmhouse (PRN 47113)

PRN	47114	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26332403
Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Wide stone walled trackway around 1 metre high running from past the cottage site (PRN 47124) to the north of the farmstead, through the farmyard and past the stables building (PRN 47121) and towards the valley to the south. The stones that form the banks either side of the trackway are laid in a herringbone pattern and survive well in the section of track to the north of the farmstead. It is shown on the 1848 tithe map for Llanwinio parish.

Recommendations

Maintain as a historic landscape feature. The stone walls should be kept in good condition and any damage repaired.

Site Category C



Plate 4 – View along trackway (PRN 47114) from Cilsant farm

PRN	47115	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN27072389
Site Type	QUARRY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A large quarry site cut into the bank with a track running along the base of it. It is now a copse.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN	47116	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26562392
Site Type	WELL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Stone built shed covering the well at Cilsant. Internally it is vaulted and it measures 1.5 metres high and around 2.5 metres wide and deep. It is first shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891.

Recommendations

Maintain as a historic landscape feature. Any repairs to this structure should use traditional materials and methods.

Site Category C



Plate 5 – Well (PRN 47116)

PRN	47117	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26562393
Site Type	SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This is a stone built square plan gabled structure with a corrugated sheet roof, located to the north of Cilsant house (PRN 47113). The north wall contains a central doorway and windows to either side with two over two sashes in each. There is a window in the east wall and a wide barn door in the west. The south and west (part) walls have been rebuilt. It is currently in use as a general store. A building on this site is shown on the 1848 tithe map for Llanwinio parish.

Recommendations

The continued use of this building is to be welcomed. However, the surrounding vegetation is beginning to encroach on the structure and ideally should be cut back and controlled to prevent any damage being done to the fabric of the building. Any repairs to this structure should use traditional materials and methods.

Site Category C

PRN	47118	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26532396
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This is a combination farm building comprising stables / cow shed (?) at the south end and three slate divided pig pens at the north. An external stone stair at the south end provides access to the granary above, which is covered by a corrugated sheet roof. Openings are formed by timber lintels with stone cills and rough jams. The granary has nine pane horizontally pivoting windows. A building on this site is shown on the 1848 tithe map for Llanwinio parish.

Recommendations

Although the granary is currently used for storage, the rest of this building is not presently in use and is beginning to show general signs of neglect. Ideally doors and windows should be replaced / repaired, the stonework repointed where necessary, and the steps at the south end rebuilt in order to secure the medium term future of this buildings. Any repairs or work on this structure should use traditional materials and methods.

Site Category C



Plate 6 – East face of farm building (PRN 47118)

PRN	47119	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26532394
Site Type	SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This is an east-west gabled cow shed range that is one of the later farm buildings at Cilsant, although a building on this site is shown on the 1848 tithe map for Llanwinio parish. It is constructed in stone with red brick dressings to the openings.

Recommendations

This building is in sound condition and should continue to be used as a farm building. Any repairs to this structure should use traditional materials and methods.

Site Category C



Plate 7 – South face of farm building (PRN 47119)

PRN	47120	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26512393
Site Type	BARN	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Stone constructed barn built onto the west end of the cow shed range (PRN 47119) and dating to the late 19th Century.

Recommendations

This building is in sound condition and should continue to be used as a farm building. Any repairs to this structure should use traditional materials and methods.

Site Category C



Plate 8 – South face of farm building (PRN 47120)

PRN	47121	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26492389
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval	Site Status	LB2

Description

This is a Grade II listed building. It is described as a long lofted stable range with (to the south) an attached longer single storey range, possibly originally cartsheds then cow houses, and dating to the late 18th to early 19th Century.

Recommendations

It is understood that the farmer wishes to repair the slate roof cover of the stables and where necessary repair the timber framework underneath. If these works are to be undertaken then it is essential to remove the slates with care to enable as many as possible to be reused. Any replacements should be a good match for the existing slates. A brief inspection showed that the roof timbers were in reasonable condition, although any defective areas should be repaired where necessary. The wall tops and areas of stonework around the two pitching holes (?) and doorway should be repaired and where necessary rebuilt using lime mortar and replacement stonework to match. Ideally the shutters to each pitching hole should also be replaced using timber and made to a suitable design.

On a longer term basis consideration should be given to repointing the external faces in lime mortar, repair/replacement of internal joists and floorboards, and rebuilding and repair of the external stairs at the north end. If these tasks are considered now then it will ensure the long term viability of the building as a usable structure.

As well as care of the fabric, active thought should be given to the future of the cow house section of the building. The farmer indicated that it was no longer practical to use it as a farm building and it has certain problems which would make it difficult to convert for other purposes. Again, pre-emptive thought about the future conservation of this building should ensure its long term

viability.

If any works are to be undertaken it is essential that the owner contacts the Conservation Officer at his Local Authority in order to find out if Listed Building Consent is required for the intended works. They then should be able to advise how the farmer should proceed.

Site Category B



Plate 9 – East face of stables section (PRN 47121)

PRN	47122	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26482391
Site Type	BARN	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This is a former Dutch barn to the north of the stable and cow house range PRN 47121. Only the stonework base now survives, and this has become seriously overgrown and in danger of being completely lost.

Recommendations

Ideally the vegetation should be cut back, the stonework conserved, and an active use sought for this structure.

Site Category C

PRN	47123	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26232407
Site Type	QUARRY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Quarry cut into the side of trackway (PRN 47114), measuring around 14 metres in length.

Recommendations

Although this quarry should be maintained as a historic landscape feature, it is recognised that further erosion of the field above needs to be prevented and that a continuous hedgerow should be provided along the area of quarrying.

Site Category C



Plate 10 – Quarry cut into side of trackway (PRN 47123)

PRN	47124	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26132425
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Although there was no obvious remains of a cottage at this site, the area having being landscaped and a pond excavated in the eastern corner of the enclosure, the existence of this small enclosure on the 1848 tithe map for Llanwinio parish and the fact that it located directly on the side of trackway PRN 47114 suggests that it was once a small cottage enclosure abandoned and lost by the middle of the 19th Century.

Recommendations

The excavation of the pond has possibly destroyed much in the way of buried archaeological remains. However much may still survive. Ground breaking works should be restricted to areas that have been disturbed in the construction of the pond, and the hedgerow enclosure around this site should be maintained.

Site Category C

PRN	47125	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN25862389
Site Type	GATEPOST	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Former stone gatepost in garden of a new building along the side of the track from the main road to Cilsant farm.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C



Plate 11 – Gatepost (PRN 47125)

PRN	47126	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN25912382
Site Type	WELL	Period	Modern		

Description

Modern concrete well or cistern located to the west of Cilsant farm near to the main road. It presumably belongs to the mid or late 20th Century, and it is believed that it is no longer used.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C



Plate 12 – Well (PRN 47126)

PRN	47164	Site Name	CILSANT	Grid Reference	SN26442385
Site Type	STANDING STONE	Period	Prehistoric?		

Description

This is a quartz stone in the middle of the field directly to the west of Cilsant farm. It measures approximately 1 metre by 0.5 metre and around 0.5 metre high. It is roughly orientated northwest – southeast. It is likely to be a standing stone.

Recommendations

Maintain as a historic landscape feature. This stone or the area around it within a radius of at least 15 metres should not be disturbed.

Site Category C



Plate 13 – Quartz standing stone (PRN 47164), looking east towards Listed Building PRN 47121

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.

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2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 1907, Carms sheet XXX.SW

Jones, F. 1987 *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes* p.32

Cilsant

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/2832
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 45631
 National Grid Reference SN26612386

 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

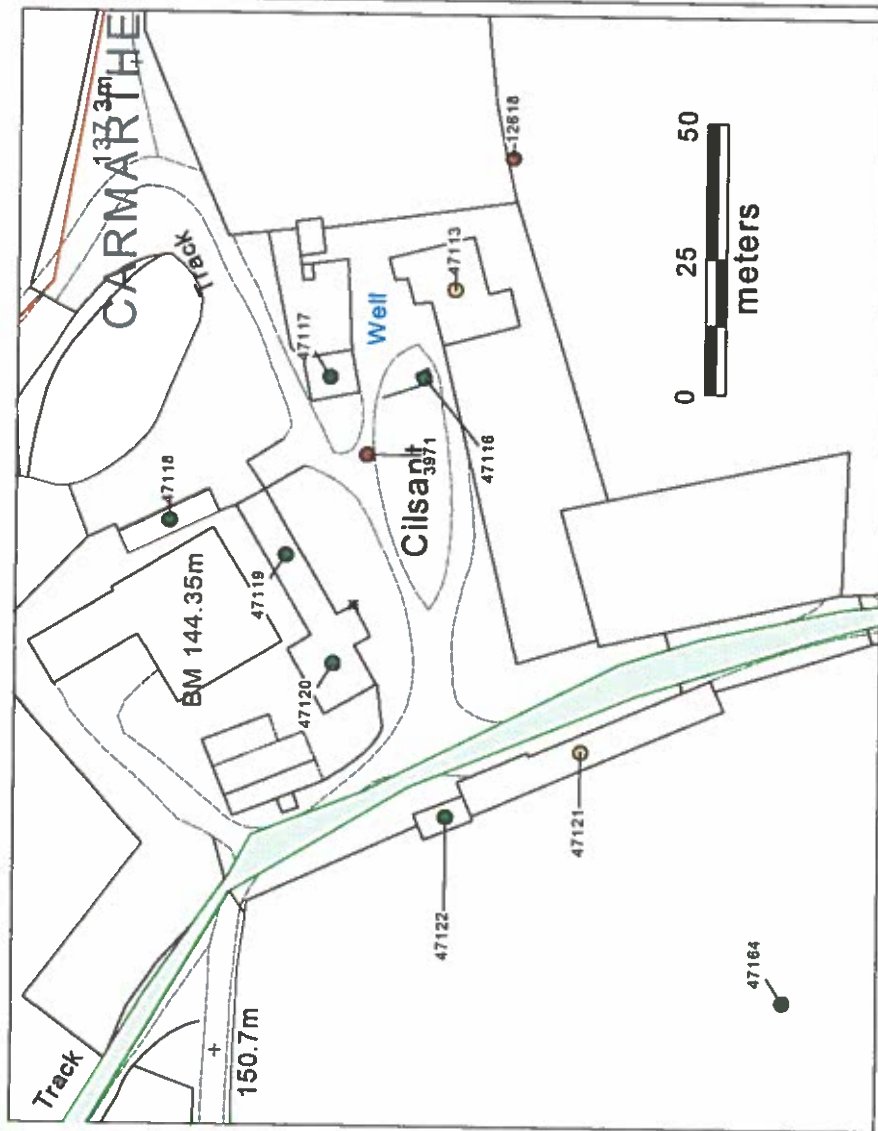
Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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Cilsant

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/2832
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 45631
 National Grid Reference SN26612386

- 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

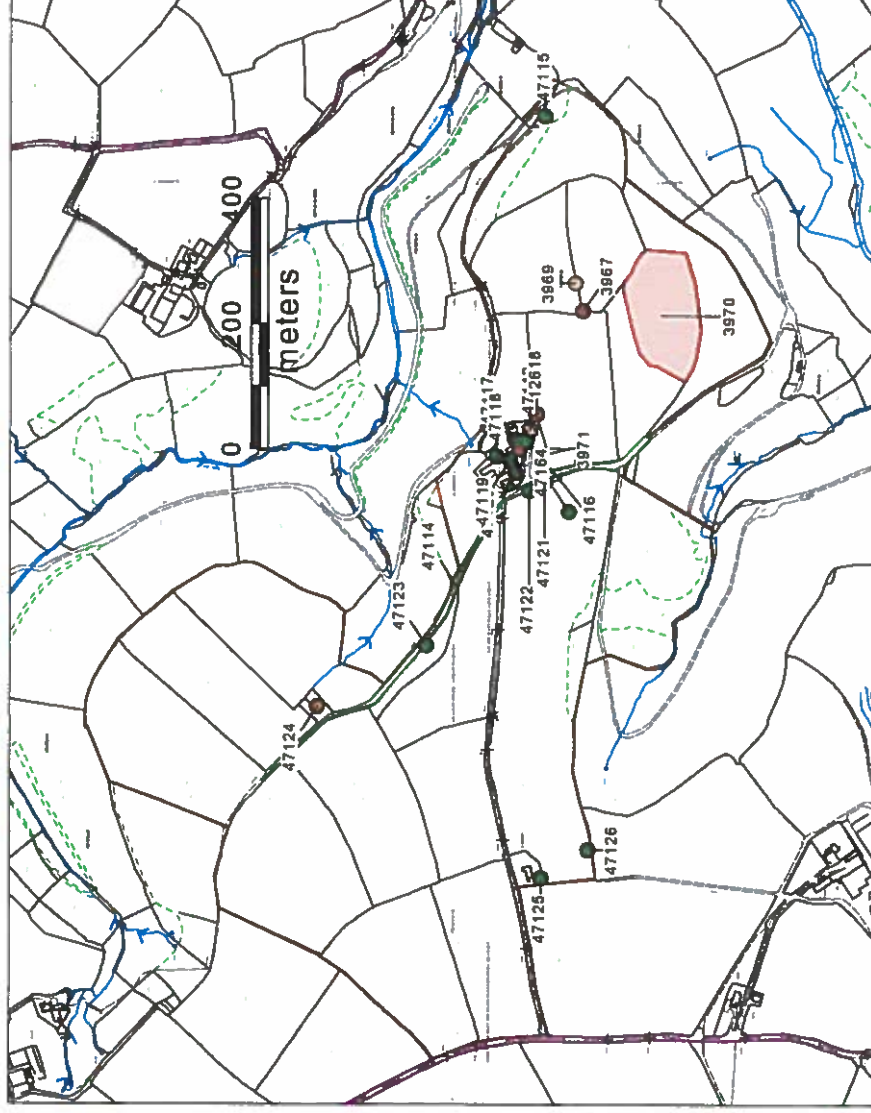
Site Category C - Local Importance

- 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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Cilsant W/12/2832

REPORT NUMBER 2002/104

January 2003

This report has been prepared by Simon Wardle

Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature SW Date 20/2/03

This report has been checked and approved by ^{LOUISE AUSTIN}~~Gwilym Hughes~~ on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: ~~Trust Director~~ Head of Heritage Management

Signature LA Date 20/02/03

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