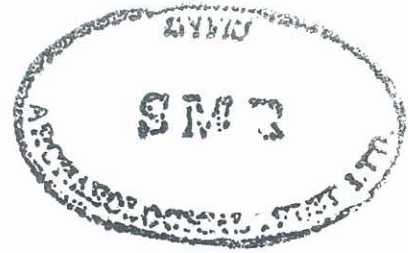


MAY 2003



## **Brynfa Farm W/13/3808**

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



Report No. 2003/55

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY  
REPORT NO. 2003/55  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 45685

May 2003

Brynfa Farm  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By  
Polly Groom

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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**

Brynfa Farm lies just outside the village of Hermon, on the Pembrokeshire side of the border with Carmarthenshire. It consists of two land holdings (W/13/3808/a and 3808/b), both of which are included in the Preseli Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (Cadw and ICOMOS UK: 1998: p.32) as parts of Historic Landscape Character Area 262: Pentre Galar.

Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs) are designed to highlight areas where local land-use traditions have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape. The modern appearance of the area around Pentre Galar was formed mostly in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the land was enclosed through an Act of Parliament, and brought into agricultural production. This process gave rise to the distinctive regular, squared field patterns which are seen especially clearly in land holding 3808/b.

Brynfa Farm, like its near neighbours, came into existence somewhere between 1819 and 1844. Only the farmhouse itself is seen on historic maps, and is named as "Ffynnon Ffetan". Another house, "Blaen Gors" is seen a short distance to the east, but a slight building platform is all that remains of this dwelling which lasted a little over one hundred years.

To the south of the main farmstead buildings, on one of the highest points in the area, is Begney earthwork (PRN 1019), recorded by the Ordnance Survey as a beacon and the findspot of a probable Roman coin in 1820. The site could not be identified on this field visit, due to ground disturbance and a new farm track which cuts through the recorded location for the feature. However, two large slabs of stone and a pile of smaller stones in the immediate vicinity may represent the only above-ground remains of this mound. One of the slabs is a piece of white quartz between 1 and 1.5m long, and the other stone is nearly twice as large. The stones are not in their original positions, and were probably moved during ground clearance at some point in the past.

It is not possible to confidently identify the nature or date of this earthwork. The Preseli area is renowned for its concentration of prehistoric monuments, including barrows, stone circles and standing stones. The location of this feature is typical of the places where prehistoric monuments are frequently found. However, the association with a probable Roman coin, and the roughly rectangular shape of the feature may imply that it had Roman origins.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **PRN 1019 – Begney Earthwork.**

Since the exact nature or date of this earthwork is unknown, it is not possible to predict what kinds of buried archaeology may be associated with it. In order to protect any surviving remains, further ground intrusive activities should not be carried out at this location.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

### Land Parcel W/13/3808/a

<b>PRN</b>	47808	<b>Site Name</b>	BLAEN GORS	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN20033178
<b>Site Type</b>	HOUSE	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

#### Description

A slight, raised house platform about 10m x 6m. A shallow depression lies against the field bank immediately to the north, and here the field bank contains a large amount of stone and slate. A scatter of stone and slate lies across this site, and may be what remains of the fabric of the house. A building is seen in this location on the parish tithe map (1844) and a house named "Blaen Gors" is on the 1891 and 1907 Ordnance Survey maps. A 1955 aerial photograph shows the building, but its condition at this stage is unclear.

The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that he could remember stone from the house being removed from the field.

#### Recommendations

Although the building has gone, the presence of a clear platform suggests that buried archaeology survives. In order to protect the buried remains, ground intrusive activities and livestock feeding and watering should not be carried out across this site, and ploughing should not take place within 5m of the site.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 1.** Site of a house (PRN 47808) now marked partially by a concentration of stone in the field bank, visible in this picture.



**PRN** 47809 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN19813106

**Site Type** POND **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

**Description**

A roughly triangular pond, about 15m across at its widest point. The pond is seen on the 1891 and 1907 Ordnance Survey maps. Some modern embanking of the north and west sides has taken place, but otherwise it seems to have changed very little.

**Recommendations**

Maintain in current condition, as a visible landscape feature.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 2.** *A roughly triangular pond (PRN 47809) which was visible on the 1891 and 1907 Ordnance Survey maps.*

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**PRN** 47810 **Site Name** FFYNNON FETTAN; **Grid Reference** SN19853180

**Site Type** FARMHOUSE **Period** BRYNFA POST-MEDIEVAL

**Description**

A stone built farmhouse which has been quite extensively modernised. The house was seen as "Ffynnon Fettan" on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. It is currently inhabited and is therefore outside the Tir Gofal scheme.

**Recommendations**

No management recommendations apply since the house falls outside the Tir Gofal scheme.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	1019	<b>Site Name</b>	BEGNEY; BIGNI	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN19923114
<b>Site Type</b>	EARTHWORK	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

### Description

An elongated turf mound was recorded at this site, and a coin – thought to be Roman – was apparently found here in 1820. Ordnance Survey records suggest that the name ‘Bigni’ or ‘Begney’ is a Pembrokeshire form of ‘Beacon’ and that the earthwork may have been a beacon or cairn. On the Ordnance Survey Old Series map (1819) a beacon is depicted in approximately the right position.

The mound could not be identified on this field visit. A recent track cuts across its site, and there has been significant ground disturbance in the area. Several large stone slabs lying against a field bank may be all that remains of the mound. Many of the field banks on this farm are very large, and are of mixed earth and stone construction. They tend to be both tall and broad, with a concentration of large stones at the base of the banks. However, there are two stone slabs here which are larger than anything else seen in field banks. One is a piece of white quartz between 1 and 1.5m long, and the other stone is nearly twice as big. The stones are not in their original positions, and were probably moved during ground clearance at some point.

The exact nature or date of this earthwork is unknown, so it is unclear whether there is likely to be any buried archaeology associated with it.

### Recommendations

No further ground intrusive activities should take place in the vicinity of this feature.

**Site Category** D



**Plate 3.** *Looking west along a new farm track which cuts through the recorded site of Begney earthwork (PRN 1019)*

<b>PRN</b>	47813	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN19573239
<b>Site Type</b>	POND; WELL	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

**Description**

A spring-fed pond which is recorded on historic maps as a well. There are no visible traces of any artificial structure.

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	47814	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN19343256
<b>Site Type</b>	WELL; POND	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

**Description**

The site of a well on historic maps. This small area contains a number of natural springs and small ponds, but no remains of a built structure could be identified.

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** C

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**Land Parcel W/13/3808/b**

<b>PRN</b>	47811	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN18283215
<b>Site Type</b>	EARTHWORK	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL	

**Description**

A shallow channel up to 1m deep and 3m wide and slightly embanked on both sides, though this is more pronounced on the north side. The channel carries a small, fast flowing stream. It may have originated as a natural streambed which has been widened, perhaps for drainage. This is likely to have taken place during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the land was enclosed through an Act of Parliament, and brought into agricultural use. The embankments are seen on 1891 and 1907 Ordnance Survey maps.

**Recommendations**

Brynfa Farm lies within an area whose appearance today was largely created by enclosure in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since this channel was probably created as part of that process, it is important that it is maintained. Damage to the banks from ploughing, or grazing in wet weather should be avoided.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	47812	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN17943204
<b>Site Type</b>	HOUSE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL	

**Description**

The site of a house seen on the parish tithe map (1844). The site was not identified on this field visit.

The house is not seen on the 1891 or 1907 Ordnance Survey maps. No trace of building remains can be identified on 1955 aerial photographs, which show the field under plough.

**Recommendations**

Ploughing in this field should go no deeper than the depth to which the field has previously been ploughed. If any finds are made, please contact Cambria Archaeology.

**Site Category** D

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## **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**


- Aerial Photograph: Meridian Airmaps, 1955, SN13SE 23507
- Aerial Photograph: Meridian Airmaps, 1955, SN13SE 23479
- Cadw and ICOMOS UK: 1998: Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales
- Cambria Archaeology: Regional Sites and Monuments Record
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire XII.SW
- Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire XII.SW
- Ordnance Survey Old Series 1819, sheet 40
- Tithe map 1844 Llanfynach Parish

Brynfa


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3808/a  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45685  
 National Grid Reference SN19873178


 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

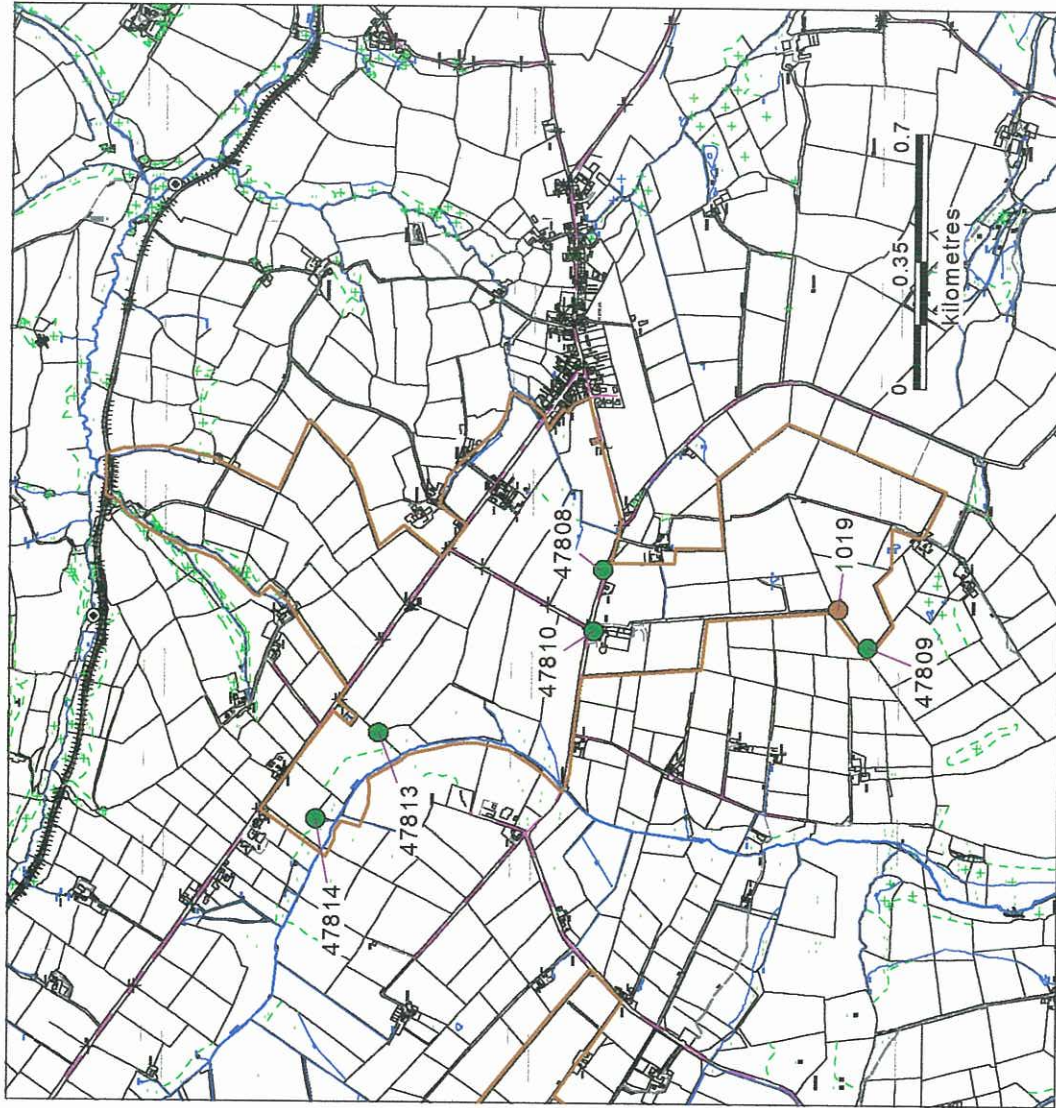
 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest

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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# Brynfa


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3808/a  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45685  
 National Grid Reference SN19873178


 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

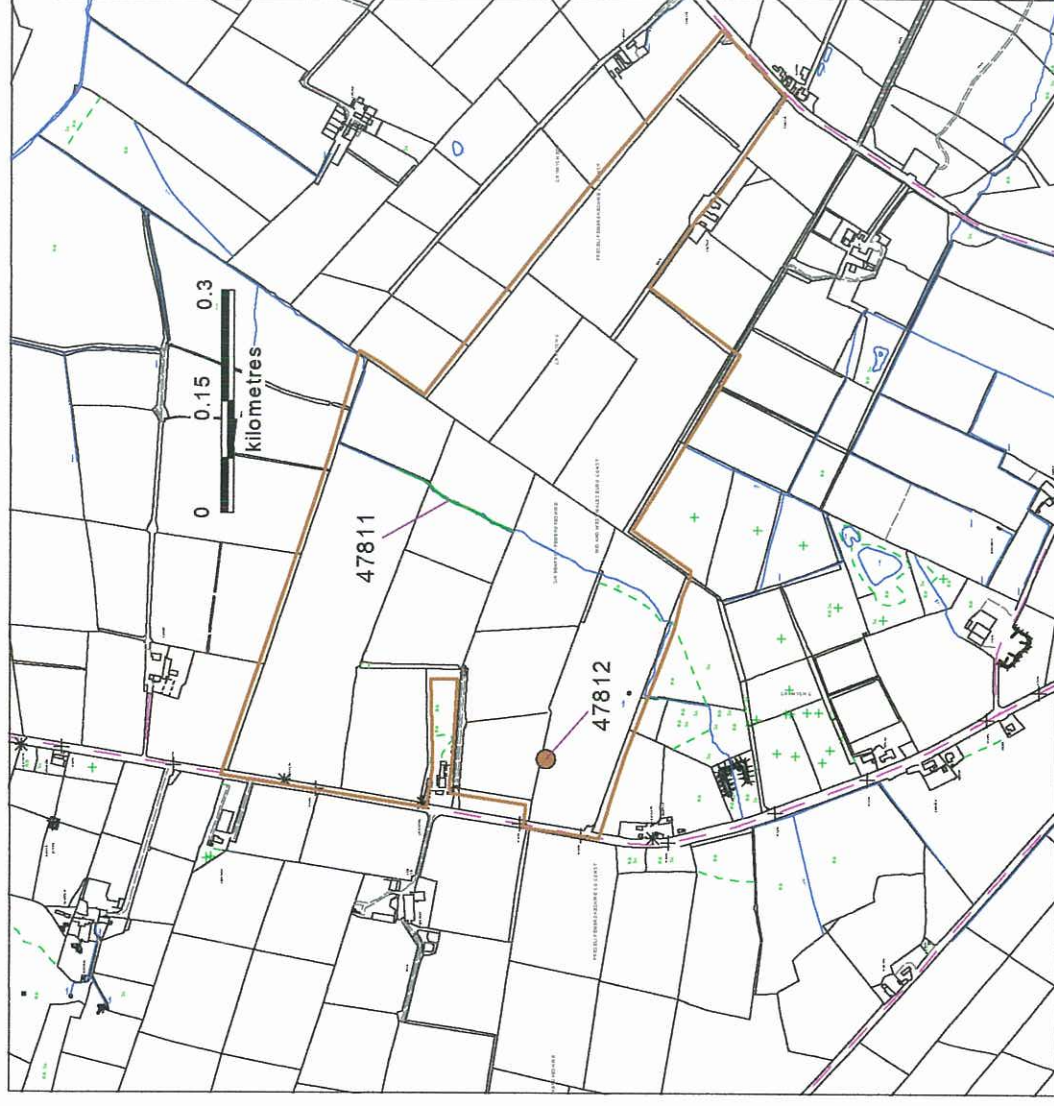
## Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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**Brynfa Farm  
W/13/3808**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/55**

**May 2003**

This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

Position: Heritage Management Assistant

Signature P. Groom Date 19<sup>th</sup> June 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 19<sup>th</sup> June 2003

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