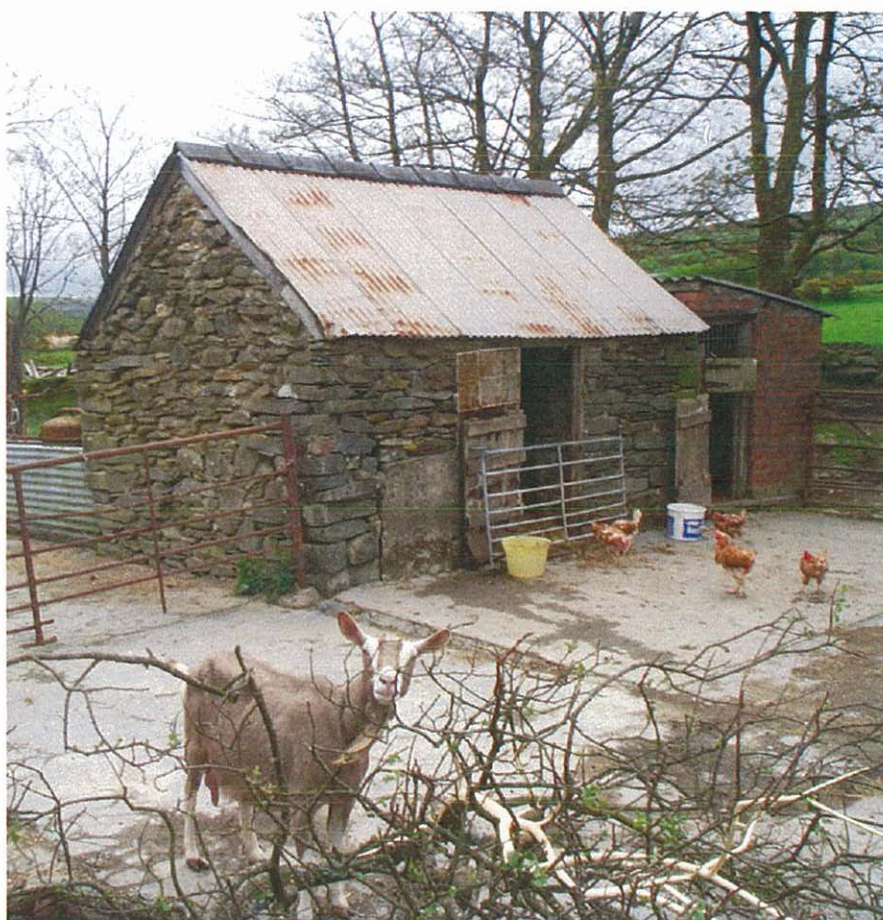


MAY 2003



## **Dolau Isaf W/13/3825**

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



Report No. 2003/54

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/54  
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1<sup>st</sup> May 2003

Dolau Isaf  
W/13/3825  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

William Steele

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## CALL OUT VISIT

Within the Tir Gofal application, the landowner had expressed an interest in demolishing a traditional farm building in order to erect a new stable building and workshop. Additional proposals involve removing two lean-tos, which are butted onto the long cowshed, which forms the western boundary of the farmyard at Dolau-Isaf. A desire to re-roof the cowshed with slate has also been expressed. Following a site visit by a Tir Gofal project officer, a follow up visit was requested by Cambria Archaeology in order to assess the impact of the proposals on the historic integrity of the farmstead and in the wider area and make any management recommendations.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

Dolau Isaf is situated on a west facing slope at the foot of Foel Dyrch a little less than one kilometre to the east of Mynachlog-ddu. The farmstead is first shown on the 1819 Ordnance Survey map. The 1846 Mynachlog ddu tithe apportionment, records it as owned by John Griffiths and occupied by John Owen as part of the lands of Maes yr Owen (Maes yr Wen). It becomes known as Bwlch-stop on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map and a single building following a northsouth alignment is identified. The 1907 Ordnance Survey map indicates the restructuring of the farmstead and a long building of similar size, identified as a cow shed, is shown in roughly the same location, although following a more northnortheast-southsouthwest alignment. A cottage is also added to the south. Two dutch barns and a modern agricultural building have since been added to the west of the original farmstead. Recent sheds of breeze block and brick construction have been butted onto the north gable end and the south end of the east lateral wall of the cow shed. A pigsty, and lean-to opposite, at the north end of the farmyard form the focus of the present enquiry. The farm is included within three Historic Landscape Areas; Gors Fawr-Waun Cleddau, Mynachlog-ddu, and Foel Dyrch.



Plate 1- looking south towards the cow shed and pigsty



## THE PIGSTY/ HEN HOUSE BUILDING

This simple building measures approximately four by three and a half metres and follows a northwest-southeast alignment. It is uncoursed stone rubble construction with faced squared quoins and a lime mortar bonding. The current pitched corrugated zinc roof has replaced a slate roof and some of the original slates are stacked nearby. A blocked off doorway, with a wooden lintel approximately 1 metre high and 0.8 metres wide in the west end of the southwest lateral wall indicates that the building originally functioned as a pigsty, and the thick walls support this. A small square window in the southeast lateral wall is also part of the original build. A more recent doorway with a wooden heck door has been added in the centre of the southwest lateral wall. The building is currently redundant, although the landowner recalls that it was last used as a hen house. It is currently weatherproof and in a reasonable condition, although masonry bonds are weakened in the west corner and some of the quoins are becoming dislodged. Parts of the building have been repointed with cement in the past. The pigsty is not shown on the 1891, 1907 and 1964?? Ordnance Survey map sources. This is surprising given the traditional materials used in its construction, which would indicate an early 20<sup>th</sup> century date at the latest, and it appears that it has been overlooked by the Ordnance Survey. The faced sharply squared quoins are stylistically different from the roughly squared quoins of the cowshed and it is likely to have been built later than other traditional elements of the farmstead. An early twentieth century date is therefore likely.

A small red brick shed, measuring approximately two and a half by three and a half metres with a single pitched corrugated asbestos roof has since been built against the east gable end of the pig sty. It is accessed by a wooden heck door in the west of the southwest lateral wall and currently serves as a hen house. It is likely to date to the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Plate 2-the pigsty/ hen house building  
**THE COW SHED AND LEAN-TOS**

The cowshed follows a broadly north-northeast-south-southwest alignment and defines the western extent of the farmyard at Dolau-Isaf. It is of uncoursed stone rubble construction with roughly squared quoins and a pitched roof. Only the south bay remains retains its traditional slate roof, and the rest of the building has since been re-roofed with corrugated iron. Heavy ivy growth at the south gable end of the building threatens to weaken masonry bonds and dislodge roof tiles. A previous fire in the building has blackened many of the roof timbers and weakened some. Some of the roof batons in the southern bay of the cow shed are rotten and will need replacing.



Plate 3- the cow shed looking south

The lean-to, at the south end of the east lateral wall is of breeze block construction, with a single shallow pitched corrugated iron roof and measures approximately five metres by three metres. It is accessed by two doorways in the front (east) wall, and one in the east wall. A window is located in the centre of the front wall next to the right doorway. The lean-to, with a shallow pitched corrugated asbestos roof abutts the north gable end of the cowshed. Engineering brick courses have been laid above breeze block footings. It is accessed by a doorway in the east wall, a single window is in the centre of the north wall.





Plate 4- the lean-to abutting the south end of the east lateral wall of the cow shed.



Plate 5- the lean-to abutting the north gable end of the cow shed.

## MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

A desire to demolish the two cow shed lean-tos has been expressed. Both buildings are comparatively recent additions to the farmstead and are of little historic importance. The removal of these sheds, which give little architectural contribution to the farmstead, will enhance the appearance of the cow shed, whilst also making necessary repair work to the cow shed roof easier.

The landowner has also expressed an interest in re-roofing the cow shed range. Some of the roof batons in the southern bay of the cow shed are rotten and will need replacing. The building should be re-roofed as a whole for maximum structural integrity. The desire to use slate to re-roof the building is to be encouraged as it will restore the historic integrity of the building. The ivy growing up the south gable end of the building should be cut off at the roots, allowed to die and then removed. Stumps should be spot treated in order to prevent re-growth. This should be followed up by a programme of repointing and building consolidation in areas, where masonry bonds have been weakened by intrusive vegetation growth.

The importance of the pigsty lies in its contribution to the group value of the farmstead, although it may be of a later date than the other traditional buildings. It is a simple and unremarkable example of its type, constructed of local building materials by a local craftsman, in response to contemporary agricultural demands. Whilst there is a general presumption in favour of retaining traditional agricultural buildings, it is recognised that the expenditure necessary for maintaining traditional buildings has to be weighed against the justification of that expenditure. The building is currently redundant and at risk of becoming neglected.

In the event that an archaeological site or historic building is to be destroyed, it is recommended that an appropriate record should be made. The photographs and field notes taken during the archaeological farm visit are considered to be an adequate record in this instance.

Although not ideal, if the building is to be demolished, it is hoped that the new stable block will use traditional building materials in keeping with the traditional character of Dolau Isaf farmstead.



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Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire Sheet XVII N.E.  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet XI S.E.  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet XVII N.E.  
Tithe apportionment 1846 Mynachlog Ddu Parish  
Tithe map 1840 Mynachlog Ddu Parish

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W/13/3825**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/54**

**1<sup>st</sup> May 2003**

This report has been prepared by William Steele

Position Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature *W. Steele* Date *7/5/2003*

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
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Position Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature *Louise Austin* Date *8/05/2003*

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