

Archaeolog Cambria
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com



Cambria Archaeology
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

Prepared for:
FENTON HOME FARM
Crundale, Haverfordwest, SA62 4PY



Prepared by
Will Steele

Farm Visited on the
6th May 2004

Tir Gofal Reference No. W/13/3836, 3836a.
Project Record No. 45857
Report No. 2004/62

SECTION A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Historic landscape character:

Fenton Home Farm (Prn 50813) consists of two separate land holdings. The home farm itself is centred on SM98901738 in the community of Wiston, Pembrokeshire. Another holding lies some 30km east at SN30580771 in Laugharne Township, over the Carmarthenshire border.

The main holding (3836) is set within a gently rolling landscape of medium to large fields, which tend to the regular. This landscape was in place by the time of the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors drawings of 1810 and has changed little since. Settlement in the area is dispersed and as well as the model farm, two smaller farmsteads also lie within the farm boundary.

East House Farm (holding 3836a.) falls within the reclaimed land of East Marsh, close to the dunes of Laugharne Burrows. Land here is flat, and divided into regular straight sided fields by drainage ditches. Ridge and furrow is a characteristic component of this landscape. The landscape here is of considerable historic interest falling as it does within the Taf and Tywi Estuary registered landscape of outstanding historic interest (HLW (D) 9). This has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and falls within the Laugharne and Pendine Marsh Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 143. These areas identify the different historic landscape components which give an area its unique qualities. A description of this character area is provided at the end of the report.

Archaeological and historical content:

Fenton, a large single pile mansion (Prn 17762) in the Georgian style with model farmstead and some other estate features, is a typical small gentry estate within the region. Few landscape features as such can be identified here, although a formal pond (Prn 50815) flanks the approach to the house. A possible garden, defined on two sides by plantation trees on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map, is now obscured by modern sheds.

The lands belonging to Fenton, as listed in the tithe apportionment were not particularly extensive but include several features which suggest higher status. The farmstead continued to improve and the model farmstead with courtyard plan was completed by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. Fenton Lodge (now outside of the farm boundary) was newly constructed and two smaller estate farmsteads (Prns 50818, 50819), are also identified with the Fenton place-name at this time. The true significance of the name is not known. The earliest known reference to “Fenton” dates to 1419 but it may derive from the Anglo-Saxon *fenn tun* suggesting proximity to marshy land (Charles, B.G 1992, 457). Few details on the history of the farmstead itself are known at present, although the present owners have taken an interest in the farm and have further information.

East House (Prn 50821) is Grade II listed as a well preserved example of a model farmstead. Ridge and furrow (Prn 50822) is an important feature in the surrounding landscape. The context for the construction of the farm and the creation of the ridge and furrow seems to be the reclamation and enclosure of the marsh and colonisation by a number of new farmsteads, probably in the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i.) **Archaeological and Historic Features:** Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii.) **Traditional Buildings:** Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii.) **Historic Parks and Gardens:** Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to Cambria Archaeology. This enables the Trust to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

“Scheduled” Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

“Listed Buildings” also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

**i.) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:
Archaeological Sites, Earthwork Monuments, Ruined structures and individual historic garden features.**

Location and description:

A search of the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held by Cambria Archaeology has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to the Trust.

This information has been supplemented by a field visit by Cambria Archaeology

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50814	Farmstead, Fenton Home Farm	Post Medieval	SM98901738	B	Generic

A model farmstead built around a rectangular yard, with the axis of the farm buildings parallel to the mansion (Prn 17762), which lies to the south. The residence is still occupied today but the farm buildings are now derelict.

The farmstead first appears on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors drawings of 1810, although the small scale, and badly damaged state of the tithe map (c.1843) mean that no clear information on the layout of individual buildings is given until the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1891. It is clear that the farmstead continued to develop throughout the nineteenth century, and this is mirrored stylistically in the buildings themselves.

All of the outbuildings shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map are traceable. They are stone rubble built with slate roofs and probably relate to at least three phases of development. An impressive L-shaped threshing barn and cart house range with red segmental brick arched openings faces onto the courtyard, which is completed on all other sides by abutting outbuildings. A long L-range cow shed is situated behind the courtyard to the north. These are differentiated by blue bullnose brick window and door dressings. Later buildings emulate this theme, featuring bluebrick door heads, but lacking other dressings.

The mansion, to the south of the agricultural buildings, is a large single pile building in the Georgian style with modifications including some Victorian features detracting from its historic appearance. Other buildings (both agricultural and domestic) flank the mansion on both sides, those to the east defining a U-shaped yard, with the stone outline of a circular walk for a horse gin still exposed in the centre. A pigsty (Prn 50820) and associated enclosure lie some 15m to the southwest. There is no evidence for any formally designed parkland or gardens, as such at Fenton Home Farm, other than a rectangular enclosure, enclosed by trees to the west of the farmyard, which appears on the 6 inch map of 1891. Modern sheds now obscure the site. A formal pond (Prn 50815), with stone revetment walling visible on the approach to the house is still a prominent feature today.

The mansion is still occupied and a planning application on the farm buildings for conversion to residential use has been granted. As such, neither fall within the Tir Gofal scheme.



Agricultural buildings around the rectangular yard at Fenton Home farm

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50815	Pond, Fenton Home Farm	Post Medieval	SM98981743	B	Generic

A pond in the east of the farmstead at Fenton Home Farm (Prn 50814). It first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891. It has been enlarged to the west, altering its original, roughly triangular plan (c.40m N-S to maximum 30m E-W). Only the original stone revetted banks on the east and south dam wall are intact today.



The pond at Fenton Home Farm

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50816	Well , Fenton Home Farm	Post Medieval	SM99001740	B	Generic
<p>A well marked on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map at Fenton Home Farm (Prn 50814). The site was heavily overgrown at the time of the archaeological farm visit preventing observation. According to the present landowner it is now capped with concrete.</p>						

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50817	Pond	Post Medieval	SM98601719	C	Generic
<p>A small rectangular pond (c.12m diameter) in the edge of a field some 300m south-west of the farmstead of Fenton Home Farm (PRN 50814). It is now silted up, although the profile of the pond banks remains unaltered.</p>						

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50818	Farmstead, North Fenton	Post Medieval	SM98611821	B	Generic
<p>The abandoned farmstead of North Fenton. It is identified as cottages on the tithe map (1843?), but seems to have become a single farmstead by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. It appears as two parallel ranges with associated enclosures on the 1908 edition.</p> <p>North Fenton has been abandoned for some years now and few traces survive today. A ruinous cottage (c.12m E-W by 6m N-S) with low spread rubble walls and a surviving one-and-a-half storey gable end, is all that remains of the south building. Nothing of the north building survives beyond a flat earthwork platform (c.14m E-W by 8m N-S) and some scattered stone rubble. The site is now overgrown with scrubby vegetation and some scattered mature trees.</p>						

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50819	Farmstead, Little Fenton	Post Medieval	SM99551759	B	Generic
<p>The former farmstead of Little Fenton. It appears as a U-plan complex on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1819 but is reduced to a single building by the time of the First Edition map of 1891. It is enlarged, again to follow a U-shape plan, by the time of the 1908 Second Edition map.</p> <p>Little Fenton was apparently abandoned in the 1970s and later fell into disrepair. A recent pond now covers much of the site and the two north buildings are now lost. The south building, a cottage (Prn 50820) is currently in the process of being restored.</p>						

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50820	Pigsty, Fenton Home Farm	Post Medieval	SM98981737	B	Generic
<p>Part of Fenton model farmstead (PRN 50814), this ruinous pigsty lies some 50m east of the other agricultural buildings which are centred on a rectangular yard.</p> <p>It is of rubble stone construction , originally with a slate roof, and follows a two unit plan. The pigsty, with gabled roof, includes a row of four parallel in-out sties which face on to a large stone walled enclosure c.500 sq m. The function of an adjoining unit against the rear wall, also with a gabled roof, is less clear. It may have been associated with feed storage or preparation. The building features blue bullnoze brick window and door dressings- a common theme throughout the farmstead. It first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891 and probably dates to the later nineteenth century.</p> <p>It is now ruinous and roofless and partly obscured by heavy vegetation growth. Unlike other agricultural buildings at Fenton Home Farm, this pigsty is not affected by a planning application and therefore falls within the Tir Gofal application area.</p>						

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50821	Farmstead, East House	Post Medieval	SN30580771	A	Generic

The following information is taken from the Cadw listed building description.

The farm lies on the southern edge of the reclaimed land of East Marsh, close to the dunes of Laugharne Burrows, due S of Laugharne. The farm buildings (Prns 51048, 51049, 51050) are ranged round 3 sides of a courtyard, with the house placed centrally in the N range. The farmstead is listed as a farm group which is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a model farmstead with a precise historical context in ambitious agricultural improvement at the beginning of the C19. It clearly demonstrates a mixed agricultural economy in a series of purpose-designed buildings unified by coherent planning in an enclosed yard, and by strong regional character in design and construction.

The farmhouse is dated 1810, with an inscription that records "This house and offices were erected by G. P. Watkins esq." The context for the construction of the farm appears to be the reclamation and enclosure of the marsh, and its colonisation by a series of new farmsteads in the early years of the C19 (the nearby Hurst House is date 1798, its model farm is of 1828). The farm-buildings represent a tightly planned group laid out as a model farm, and although the ranges appear to have been constructed at slightly different times, the distinctive courtyard layout is clearly shown in the Tithe Map of 1842.



Facing south along the approach to East House Farm

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50822	Ridge and Furrow, East House Farm	Post Medieval	SN30830826	A	Generic

An extensive system of ridge and furrow, in an area of reclaimed marsh, on land belonging to East House Farm.

Charles Hassall, in the late eighteenth century described the ridging up of land on Laugharne marsh using the Dutch plough. The ridge and furrow at East Farm can probably be attributed to this period of land improvement (based on Murphy and Ludlow 2000). As part of a rare and complete “improvement period” landscape with known historic context, it is of national importance.

The earthworks have been under permanent pasture for some time now. No management threats identified.



Ridge and furrow at East House Farm. Looking west.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

1. Ensure the survival of visible features.
2. Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
3. Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements – Section C

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot *in situ*. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. **(Capital Works Option)**.
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. **(Capital Works Option)**

ii.) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50823	Cottage, Little Fenton	Post Medieval	SM99551757	B	Generic

This one-and-a-half storey cottage is all that remains of Little Fenton farmstead (Prn 50819). A building appears in this position on historic maps from the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors drawings (1810) onwards and the cottage probably dates to at least the early nineteenth century. It is a long, low building (12m E-W by 6m N-S) of rubble stone, originally with a slate roof.

The front wall faces north, where the farmyard would have been. It has recently been rebuilt but apparently retains the original door and window positions. It features a door to the left (east), flanked by evenly spaced windows and another window and door to the right (west). The rear (south) wall is pierced by two window openings with slate sills. Both feature small panel casements with between four and six lights. A small fireplace, about a metre wide is set into the east gable end, and the west end features a central window opening. No internal partitions survive, but an internal step suggests that the building was originally divided into at least two units. The cottage is currently in the process of being restored for agricultural use.



The cottage at Little Fenton is now in the process of being restored.

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	51048	Barn, East House	Post Medieval	SN30560772	Listed Building II	Generic

A barn range on the W side of the yard at East House Farmstead (Prn 50821). The following information is taken from the Cadw listed building description.

Barn Range at East House Farm. Listed as an integral part of a farm group which is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a model farmstead with a precise historical context in ambitious agricultural improvement at the beginning of the C19. It clearly demonstrates a mixed agricultural economy in a series of purpose-designed buildings unified by coherent planning in an enclosed yard, and by strong regional character in design and construction.

The W range comprises a large and a small barn separated by a lofted cartshed and stable. Construction is limewashed rubble with some brick dressings, and slate roofs. The larger barn (at the SW) has wide high arched doors in both elevations (both now blocked or partially blocked); a C20 extension obscures part of the yard-ward elevation. Under the same roof line are 2 cartshed bays with a small stable alongside: paired cart entries with shallow brick arches, similar arched heads to window and door of stable to right (an additional doorway has been blocked); 6 regularly spaced windows beneath the eaves above. To the N of this, a smaller (and perhaps earlier) barn has narrow opposed doorways and flanking vents.



The combination farm building range on the west side of the farmyard at East House Farm.

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	51049	Cow Shed, East House	Post Medieval	SN30580769	Listed Building II	Generic
<p>A long low cow shed on the south side of the yard at East House Farmstead (Prn 50821) The following information is taken from the Cadw listing description.</p> <p>Cowhouse Range at East House Farm. Listed as an integral part of a farm group which is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a model farmstead with a precise historical context in ambitious agricultural improvement at the beginning of the C19. It clearly demonstrates a mixed agricultural economy in a series of purpose-designed buildings unified by coherent planning in an enclosed yard, and by strong regional character in design and construction. The cow-house range is typical of improvement-period design and layout.</p> <p>A single storeyed range of cow-houses, built in 2 phases (the earliest section to the east has pegged truss roof), with a storeyed building at the eastern end of the range (also of earlier type). Lime-washed rubble with some brick dressings, and slate roof. The original arrangement comprised a series of doorways were subsequently partially blocked as windows but the original arrangement remains clearly legible. Adjoining to the L (E) is a 2-storeyed building (original use unclear) with central doorway and loft opening above, and small flanking windows to ground-floor.</p> <p>Cow house range is divided into 3 sections inside by cross walls, but with a continuous feeding passage running along the rear of the building. Stalls all renewed in concrete. Generally pegged collar and tie-beam trusses, but bolted trusses in west section, suggesting it was a slightly later build. Similar pegged trusses in storied building.</p>						

No on Map	PRN	Site Type/ Name	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	51050	Agricultural Building, East House	Post Medieval	SN30600770	Listed Building II	Generic

This range of agricultural buildings defines the east side of the yard at East House Farmstead (Prn50821) formation is taken from the Cadw listed building description.

East farm-range at East House Farm. Listed as an integral part of a farm group which is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a model farmstead with a precise historical context in ambitious agricultural improvement at the beginning of the C19. It clearly demonstrates a mixed agricultural economy in a series of purpose-designed buildings unified by coherent planning in an enclosed yard, and by strong regional character in design and construction.

The E range comprises a series of sheds, distinctively built with mono-pitched roof against a high enclosing wall. They were presumably mainly intended for storage or workshop space, and there is a wash-house or brew-house at the N end of the range. Doors (5 in all) and windows (3) are all immediately below the eaves line; the roof-line continues across a covered bay in the SE corner, where it abuts the storeyed building in the cow-house range. External doorway from the yard within this covered this covered way. Wash-house or brew-house has tall axial chimney with doorway to its R, and a window at each side.



Agricultural buildings on the west side of the farmyard at East House.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

1. Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
2. Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
3. Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

Management Prescriptions - see also general requirements page

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (**Capital Works Option**)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (**Capital Works Option**)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (**Capital Works Option**)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (**Capital Works Option**)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

References

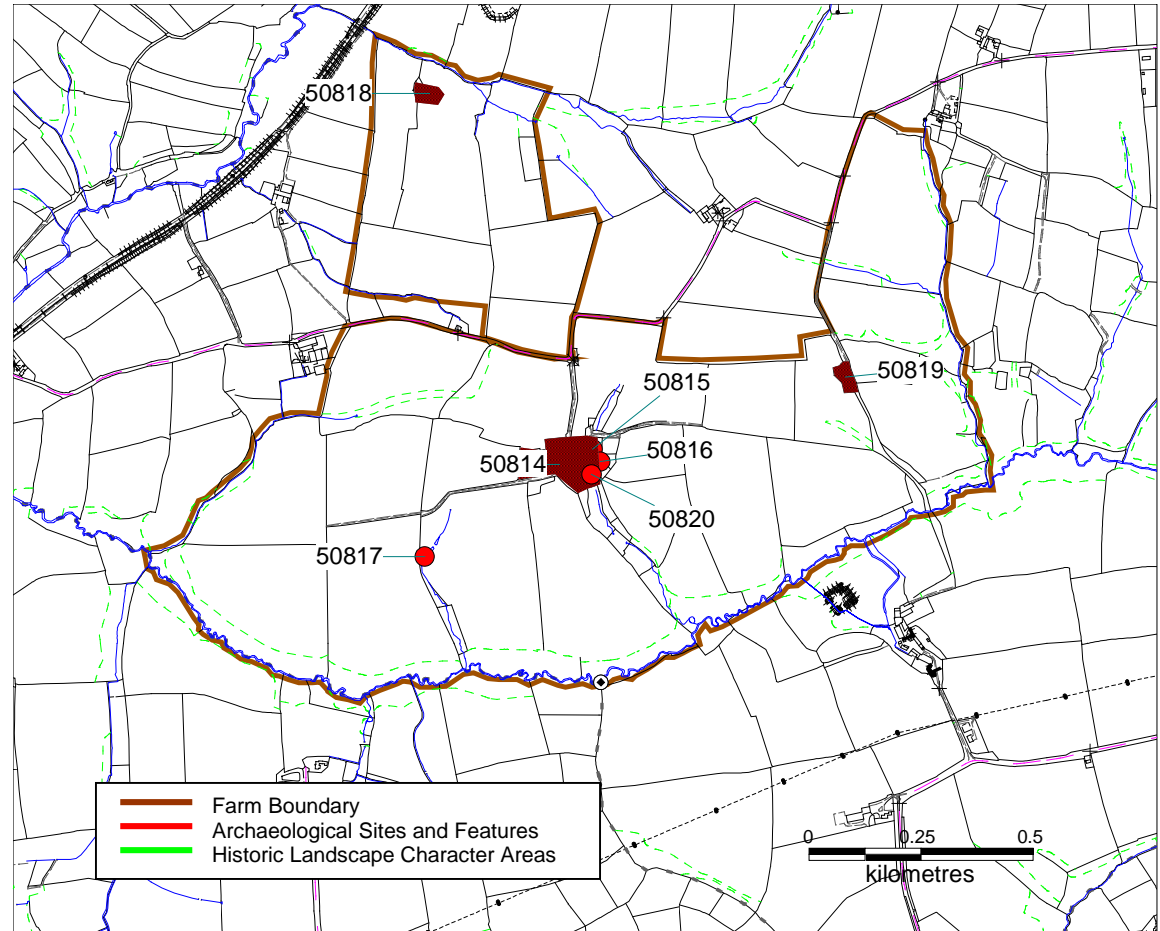
Maps

Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings 1810, Sheet 183
Ordnance Survey Old Series 1819, Sheet 40
Ordnance Survey Old Series 1831, Sheet 41
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire LII NW
Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire LII NE
Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire XXIII SW
Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire XXVIII NW
Ordnance Survey 1908 Carmarthenshire LII NW
Ordnance Survey 1908 Carmarthenshire LII NE
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXIII SW
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXVIII NW
Tithe Map & Apportionment 1843? Wiston Parish

Other Sources

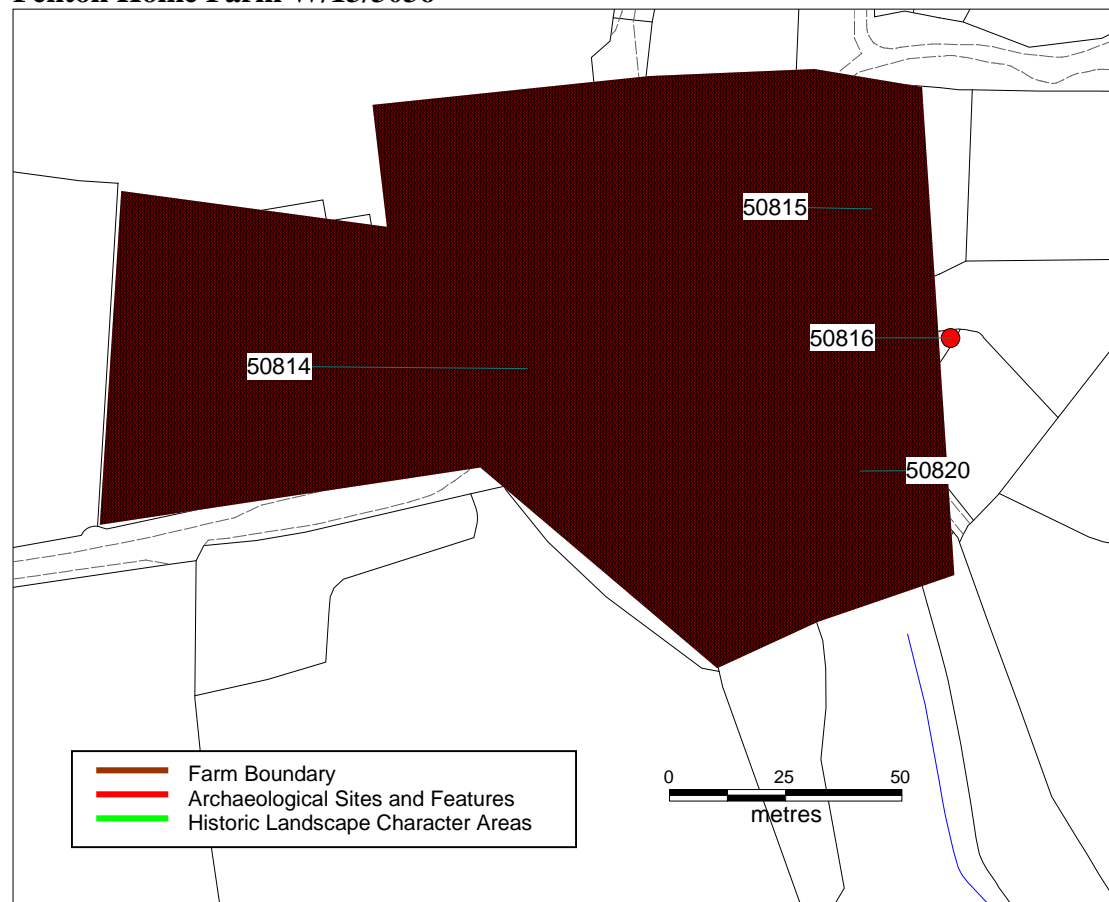
Cadw n.d. Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest
Charles, B.G 1992 The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire. The National Library of
Wales, Aberystwyth.
Cadw/ICOMOS 1998 The Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in
Wales
Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000 The Pembrokeshire Historic Landscape
Characterisation Project

Fenton Home Farm W/13/3836



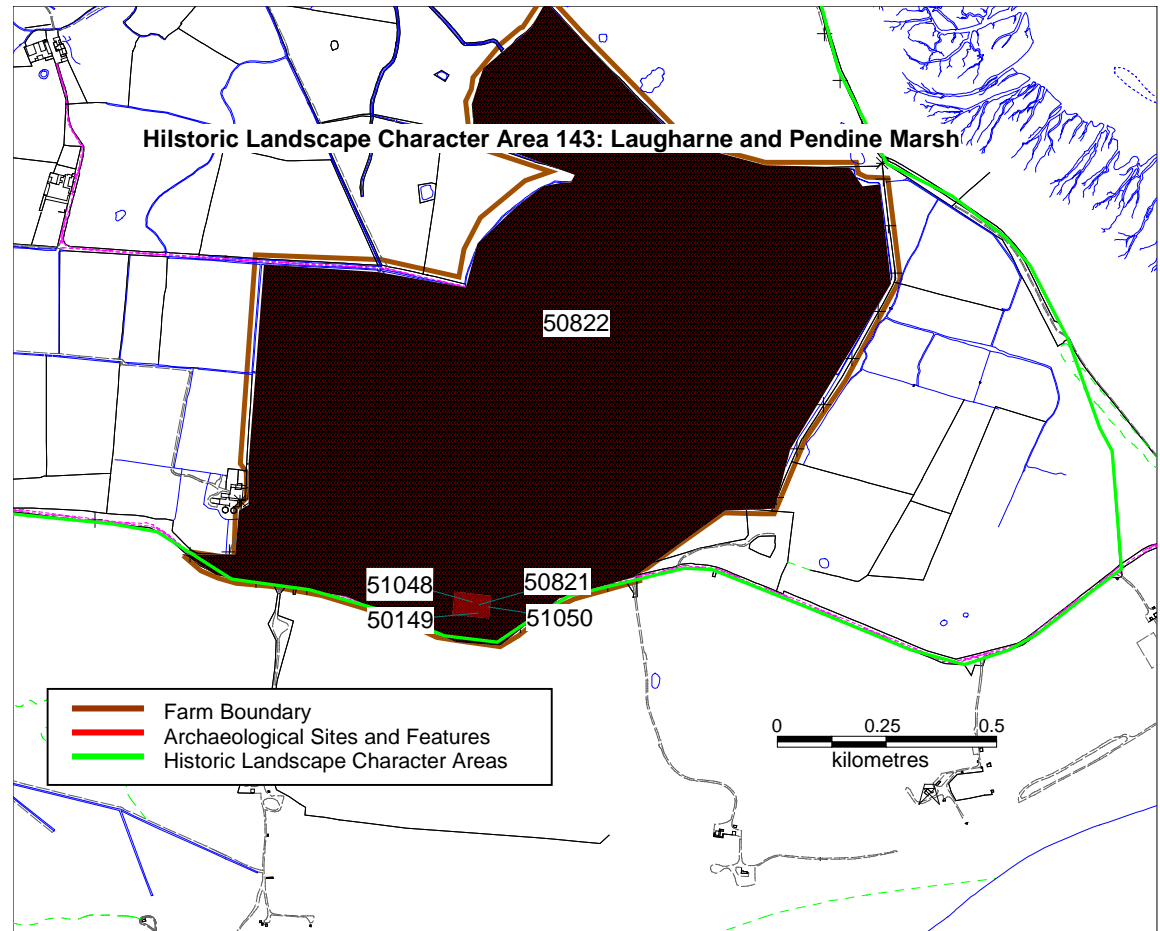
This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G

Fenton Home Farm W/13/3036



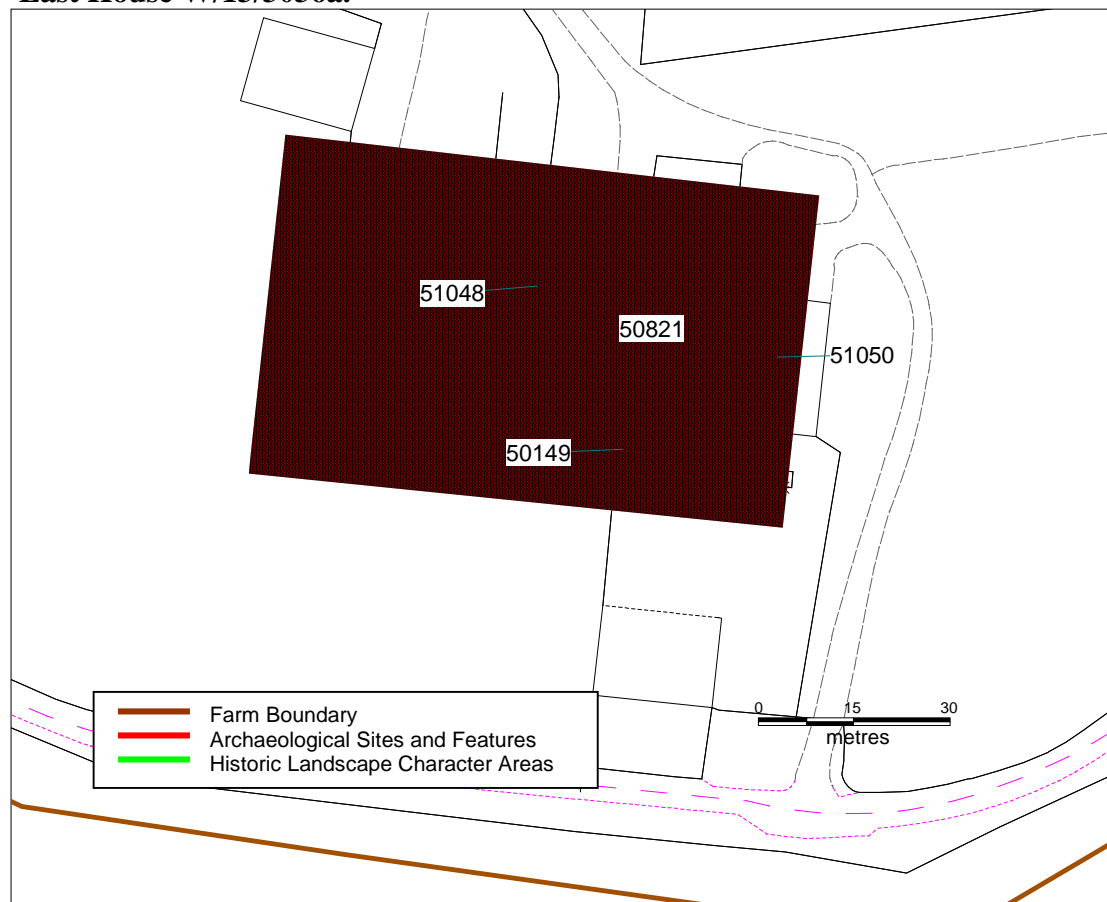
This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G

East House W/13/3036a.



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G

East House W/13/3036a.



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Licence number: GD272825G

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TAF & TYWI ESTUARY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 143 LAUGHARNE AND PENDINE MARSH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 281086

AREA IN HECTARES: 958.00

Historic Background

From the later prehistoric period until Medieval times, this area probably comprised salt marsh and patches of rough pasture on marginally higher ground, interspersed with fresh and brackish-water lagoons. In a borough charter of 1278-82 (Williams n.d.) it is stated that Sir Guy de Brian granted certain privileges and rights to the burgesses of Laugharne 'in the marsh of Talacharn called Menecors'. However, it is clear that Sir Guy kept the greater part of the marsh in his own hands as part of the demesne of the Lordship of Laugharne, as on his death in 1307, 1000 acres of pasture in 'le Marcis' were recorded in an *Inquisition post Mortem* (National Library of Wales 10118E Vol. 1). In 1595, the first record of habitations occurs, when the 'dairies' of Hurst House, East House and Brook House were noted in a survey (Laugharne Corporation). These three dwellings are either on the fringes of the marsh or on islands of higher ground. The term dairy indicates pasture, perhaps on a seasonal basis, as it is likely that the marsh was subjected to flooding and tidal inundation in the winter months. Prior to 1595, Sir John Perrot, Lord of Laugharne, cheated the burgesses of Laugharne out of their share of their marsh, adding it to the demesne established by Guy de Brian. Sir John used the marsh for large-scale sheep farming. However, a small part of the marsh known as 'The Lees' remained in the hands of the burgesses and was later cultivated using an open- or strip-field system (Davies, 1955). The Lees is still owned by Laugharne Corporation, though in character it is indistinguishable from the rest of the marsh. It was not until 1660 when Sir Sackville Crow came into possession of the marsh that a scheme of drainage was initiated with the construction of sea walls (Murphy, forthcoming). Drainage allowed for the establishment of new farms - a process that was complete by the tithe survey of the 1840s - and by the late 18th-century Laugharne Marsh comprised the best farmland in the county. Charles Hassall (1794, 15) described how the land could be made more productive by ridging-up the land by the use of the Dutch Plough. Drainage work continued in the 19th century. A large sea-wall armoured with stone, and a quay, were constructed at the east end of the marsh in 1800-10 by George Watkins of Broadway and connected to Coygan Quarry by a tramway (James 1991, 150), and in c. 1840 a wall across the Witchett Brook was built. Watkins's work seems to have been part of wide-ranging improvements as most of the farms (all part of Broadway estate) were rebuilt in c.1820 in a 'Georgian' style and provided with good ranges of outbuildings. A Ministry of Defence research establishment has been founded across part of the south and southeast portion of this historic landscape character area.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This historic landscape character area consists of flat land some 6km by 1.5km just a few metres above sea level. It is characterised by regularly-shaped fields of pasture. These fields are divided by drainage ditches which are usually accompanied by wire fences, though in the central area of the Marsh, south of Coygan Quarry, low hedges parallel some of the ditches. Towards the eastern end of the Marsh fields become less regular and tend to reflect the dendritic pattern of the pre-drainage salt marsh. Two phases of sea wall separate this area from the salt marsh to the east. Pasture is the dominant land use, mostly improved, but with pockets of unimproved ground. There is limited arable and no old woodland. Towards the western edge the land is becoming neglected and rushes are growing. Ridge and furrow, or rather in this instance ridge and drain, is everywhere apart from between the two phases of sea wall at the eastern edge. This ridge and furrow is a distinct component of the historic landscape. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Farm buildings are generally two-storey and stone built. Farmhouses are in a 'Georgian' style and farms were provided with large ranges of outbuildings which were usually located formally around a yard. These early 19th-century estate farms lend a distinctive architectural signature to the area. Farms have modern agricultural buildings associated with them. The Ministry of Defence research establishment across part of the southern portion of this historic landscape character area has erased many landscape components. Many new buildings and tracks and have been constructed and the planting of shelter belts and scrubby woodland to shield the establishment from view have further altered the character of part of the area.

All recorded archaeological features relate to the reclamation and land-use described above.

There are some distinctive buildings. Date stones on several of the farms indicate a major period of rebuilding in c. 1820 by the Broadway estate. Hurst House and its farm buildings are both Grade II listed.

This is a very distinct character area with clear boundaries between it and its neighbours.

Conservation priorities

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. The drainage system and pattern of ridge and furrow are important and unusual historic landscape elements; it is important that the drains are maintained and the ridge and furrow preserved. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

Ground photograph: 10

Aerial photographs: 75, 77

Fenton Home Farm
W/13/3836

3rd June 2004

This report has been prepared by Will Steele
Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

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.....

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