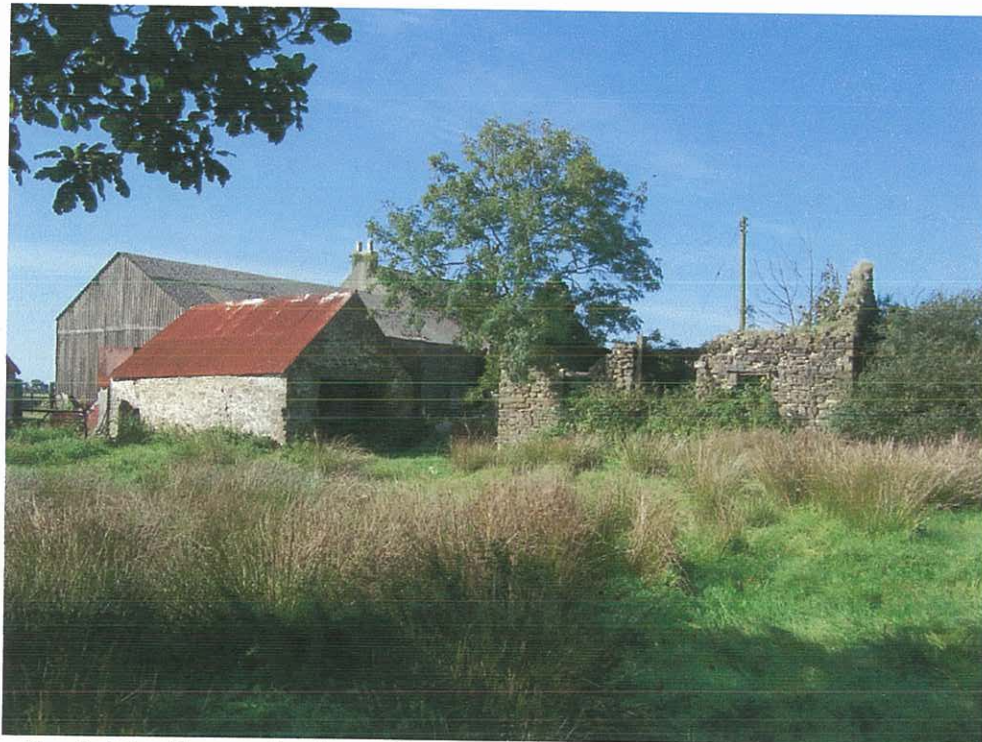


Sept 2003



## **South Headborough W/13/3845**

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



*South Headborough: the stable and cart shed with the farmhouse behind*

Report No. 2003/102

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/102  
PROJECT RECORD NO. 45865

16<sup>th</sup> September 2003

South Headborough  
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report  
Call Out

By

Alice Pyper

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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 (PRN 48680)**

South Headborough farm is situated approximately 1.6 kilometres to the northeast of Walwyn's Castle centred on grid reference SM 88611194. The farmhouse of South Headborough is no longer occupied and has been empty some 30 + years, although the modern farm buildings are still used.

The topography of the farm is one which gently slopes into the valley of a small tributary which leads into Sandyhaven Pill, and this tributary defines the southern extent of the farm holding. The field pattern is one of small to medium sized irregular shaped fields - a pattern which appears little changed from that recorded on the tithe map of 1840. The field boundaries are usually earth banks with hedgerow trees on top, although some of the larger fields have been subdivided by post and wire fencing. At the time of the farm visit the holding was largely under pasture except in the lower lying areas which are waterlogged and boggy and the steeper slopes which have been extensively colonised by blackthorn and willow.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The owner of South Headborough has expressed an interest in undertaking some restoration of the farm buildings and the pond through the scheme. This would tie in with restoration work on the currently uninhabited farmhouse.

The current owners intentions for the restoration of the farmstead are to be welcomed. The restoration of these farm buildings would not only extend their useful lifespan for many more years, along with the restoration of the farmhouse they would regenerate the farmstead and allow the historic core to become a complete functioning complex as it once was.

### **Prn 48682 STABLE**

The stable is the largest building in the group around the farm pond. It is also in the most vulnerable condition, since without a roof the wall tops are exposed to the elements and will quickly degrade. The most important aspect of the restoration is to replace the roof, in order to restore the building to a watertight and weatherproof condition. The preferred option is to re-roof the building in slate, however, if this is not possible the next best solution would be to roof the building in corrugated sheeting. As a short term measure the vegetation (mostly brambles) which have colonised the interior should be cut back to ground level and treated to prevent regrowth. A number of self seeded ash trees have also grown in close proximity to the structure and a fairly mature tree grows adjacent to the south gable, the branches of these trees are brushing against the masonry and will undoubtedly cause instability. These should ideally be cut down at ground level and the stumps treated to prevent regrowth.

### **Prn 48683 - CALF HOUSE**

Although the calf house has been substantially rebuilt in breeze block in the south elevation the bulk of the building is still intact. The stonework is beginning to loosen around the east gable and this may in part be due to the lack of adequate roof covering over the wall tops. The corrugated iron sheeting which covers the building at present is beginning to seriously degrade resulting in the

building no longer remaining watertight. Ideally the building should be recovered in slate, although corrugated sheeting would also be a satisfactory alternative. The masonry around the two gable ends should be repaired using materials similar to the original construction.

**Prn 48686 – POND**

The restoration of the pond would be a worthwhile undertaking and restore some of the historic character to the farmyard. The excavation of silt and vegetation which currently choke the pond should be carried out with care not to damage the existing boundary bank to the east.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	13068	Site Name	Grid	SM88851171
Site Type	SETTLEMENT	Period	Post Medieval	Reference

### Description

A possible settlement has been identified from aerial photographs situated in the south of the holding. Although attempts were made during the farm visit to identify the site of this feature it was not successfully located and it appears to be situated on the valley slopes which are heavily grown over with blackthorn and willow. The tithe map records this field as 'Guard Park' but does not indicate any structure in this location. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) does suggest a rectangular feature positioned across the slope, although it is not labelled. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (1908) indicates a levelled terrace cut into the slope to the north. The aerial photographs, taken in 1955, show that the area was becoming engulfed with trees or scrub. The map evidence, which indicates a rectangular levelled area cut into the hillslope, suggests that this would have been a building platform of some description.

### Recommendations

Unfortunately a detailed assessment of this feature was not possible on the farm visit, however it appears to be situated within an area of dense scrub which is currently accessible to grazing animals who use it periodically for shelter. The vegetation in this area appears to be in a stable condition and does not appear to be a serious threat to the survival of this site. If any further information is learned about this site please inform Cambria Archaeology. In the meantime no ground intrusive works are should be undertaken in this area.

Site Category D

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<b>PRN</b>	<b>48681</b>	<b>Site</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>Grid</b>	<b>SM88901200</b>
		<b>Name</b>	<b>HEADBOROUGH</b>	<b>Reference</b>	
<b>Site</b>	<b>FARMSTEAD</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Post Medieval</b>		

#### **Type**

#### **Description**

The two farmsteads of South and North Headborough were a single homestead at the time of the tithe survey of Walwyn's Castle in 1840 where it is named Hedbar. At this time the farm was under the ownership of James Griffiths and was tenanted by John Richards. The farm had been divided when the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1908 was recorded. The map indicates the insertion of a boundary dividing the farmstead into two and the appearance of the farmhouse at South Headborough. The layout of the farmstead at this time appears to correspond closely to that seen today with the addition of various modern sheds to the east of the farmstead.

The farm buildings are all built with rubble stone walling and dressings with timber lintels over openings.

The farmstead appears to have developed organically, the buildings do not appear to have been constructed contemporaneously and the different elements make a vital contribution to the story of the farmstead. The group consists of four individual elements in addition to the farmhouse; the stable, cart shed and calf house stand in a group around the pond. A further cow shed, which has recently been restored, is situated to the south of the farmstead.

#### **Recommendations**

There are three buildings, which may be subject to building restoration, situated around a farm pond forming a pleasing and coherent group of buildings of a similar construction style. The owner hopes to be able to restore the farmhouse and reinstate it as the working centre of the farm holding. In addition the owner wishes to restore the farm buildings to re-establish the historic core of the farmstead. Tir Gofal provides a wonderful opportunity to assist in realising this aim.

Please see individual records for specific management descriptions.

**Site Category** C

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PRN	48682	Site Name	SOUTH HEADBOROUGH	Grid Reference	SM88891203
Site Type	STABLE	Period	Post Medieval		

#### Description

The stable is currently roofless although the walls appear secure and stand to roof height. It is orientated on a north south axis with the frontage facing towards the pond to the east. A central doorway is placed in the east elevation with flanking windows to either side. Internally sockets are visible along the rear lateral wall indicating the position of a loft.

The stable is currently very overgrown with brambles and a number of self seeded ash trees are growing within and in close proximity to the structure. The walls themselves appear to be stable and straight; there is no indication of any leaning or buckling.

#### Recommendations

The stable is the largest building in the group around the farm pond. It is also in the most vulnerable condition, since without a roof the wall tops are exposed to the elements and will quickly degrade. The most important aspect of the restoration is to replace the roof, in order to restore the building to a watertight and weatherproof condition. The preferred option is to re-roof the building in slate, however, if this is not possible the next best solution would be to roof the building in corrugated sheeting. As a short term measure the vegetation (mostly brambles) which have colonised the interior should be cut back to ground level and treated to prevent regrowth. A number of self seeded ash trees have also grown in close proximity to the structure and a fairly mature tree grows adjacent to the south gable, the branches of these trees are brushing against the masonry and will undoubtedly cause instability. These should ideally be cut down at ground level and the stumps treated to prevent regrowth.

Site Category C





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*Prn 48682 - the old stable which stands to the west of the farm pond*

PRN	48683	Site Name	SOUTH	Grid	SM88901202
			HEADBOROUGH	Reference	
Site Type	CALF HOUSE	Period	Post Medieval		

#### **Description**

To the southeast of the stable is a small one unit building which is thought to be a calf house. Its front elevation, facing north overlooking the pond has a single doorway to the west side and a small square opening with metal bars. The calf house is roofed with corrugated iron which is corroding. The rear elevation (south) has been almost entirely rebuilt in breeze block and the west gable end has been heavily repointed in cement.

Although complete the calf house is beginning to look unstable particularly around the east gable end where the wall tops are collapsing. Another area of collapse is at ground level around the west gable end. The interior of the roof was not inspected so the condition of the structural members is unknown.

#### **Recommendations**

Although the calf house has been substantially rebuilt in breeze block in the south elevation the bulk of the building is still intact. The stonework is beginning to loosen around the east gable and this may in part be due to the lack of adequate roof covering over the wall tops. The corrugated iron sheeting which covers the building at present is beginning to seriously degrade resulting in the building no longer remaining watertight. Ideally the building should be recovered in slate, although corrugated sheeting would also be a satisfactory alternative. The masonry around the two gable ends should be repaired using materials similar to the original construction.

**Site Category** C



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*Prn 48683 - the calf house*



PRN	48684	Site Name	SOUTH HEADBOROUGH	Grid Reference	SM88891202
Site Type	CART SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

### Description

Immediately to the south of the stable is a single unit cart shed, with a wide double entrance in the north gable end. In common with the other traditional buildings which surround the pond, the cart shed is rubble built, although it has been repaired in brick at the south gable.

The cart shed appears structurally sound. However, the roof covered in corrugated iron is beginning to corrode and is probably nearing the end of its lifespan.

### Recommendations

Although the cart shed is at present in a reasonable state of repair the corrugated iron sheeting on the roof is degrading through lack of treatment. It appears to still be watertight at present however it will need repairing or replacing in the not to distant future. In common with the other buildings discussed above, slate would be the preferred roofing material, however corrugated sheeting would also be acceptable.

Site Category C



*Prn 48684 - the cart shed*

PRN	48685	Site Name	SOUTH HEADBOROUGH	Grid Reference	SM88891199
Site Type	COW SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

**Description**

The cow shed is a long two storey range constructed in rubble stone with a slate roof. Although the tithe map of 1840 indicates a building in this approximate position it does not appear to be as large as the existing building. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 does show a better representation of what may be the current building and it indicates a circular 'horse gin' to the east.

The cow shed has been recently repaired and appears to be in a stable condition.

**Recommendations**

This building should continue to be maintained in a stable and watertight condition.

**Site Category** C



*Prn 48685 – the cow shed*



PRN	48686	Site Name	SOUTH HEADBOROUGH	Grid Reference	SM88891202
Site Type	POND	Period	Post Medieval		

### Description

A pond is clearly marked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1908 suggesting that it was established when the farm of Headborough was subdivided into two. It is situated to the east of the enclosure in which the farm buildings above are located. The eastern extent of the pond appears to have been formed by the boundary bank which is extant today.

The pond was largely dried up when the farm was visited in September, although the ground was clearly still damp and boggy. The pond appears to have been silted up for some time. There do not appear to be retaining banks on any side but the east which forms the enclosure bank.

### Recommendations

The restoration of the pond would be a worthwhile undertaking and restore some of the historic character to the farmyard. The excavation of silt and vegetation which currently choke the pond should be carried out with care not to damage the existing boundary bank to the east.

Site Category C



*Prn 48686 - the pond has almost completely silted up and is now only denoted by the rushes*

PRN	48687	Site Name	Grid Reference	SM88311202
Site Type	EARTHWORK	Period	Post Medieval	

#### Description

A circular feature to the east of the farm holding is identifiable on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1908, although no function or status is attributed to it. It is defined on the maps as a roughly circular feature with dense hachures indicating a steep slope around the edges and a flat and featureless centre.

The area around this feature is currently densely covered with thorn trees, making assessment difficult. The nature of the feature did not appear to be as regular as suggested from the early Ordnance Survey maps, however a definite hollow with steep sides was observed.

It is unknown what this feature may have been derived from, but it is possible it may have been a quarry or extraction pit of some sort, although it appears to exist in isolation.

#### Recommendations

This feature is currently in a stable condition although not very easily accessible or visible. If any further information comes to light about the nature of this feature please inform Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D



*Prn 48687 - the mysterious feature identified from the early Ordnance Survey map editions.*

## **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**

Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire sheet XXXIII.NW

Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire sheet XXVII.SW

Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire sheet XXXIII.NW

Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire sheet XXVII.SW

Tithe Map and Apportionment of Walwyns Castle Parish 1840

RAF Air Map 1955 SM81SE 180/210 23847, 23848.



**South Headborough  
W/13/3845**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/102**

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Heritage Management Archaeologist

Signature Alice Pyper Date 20<sup>th</sup> October 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 21/10/03

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


# South Headborough

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3845  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 45865  
 National Grid Reference SM88611194  
 Map 1


 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


## Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

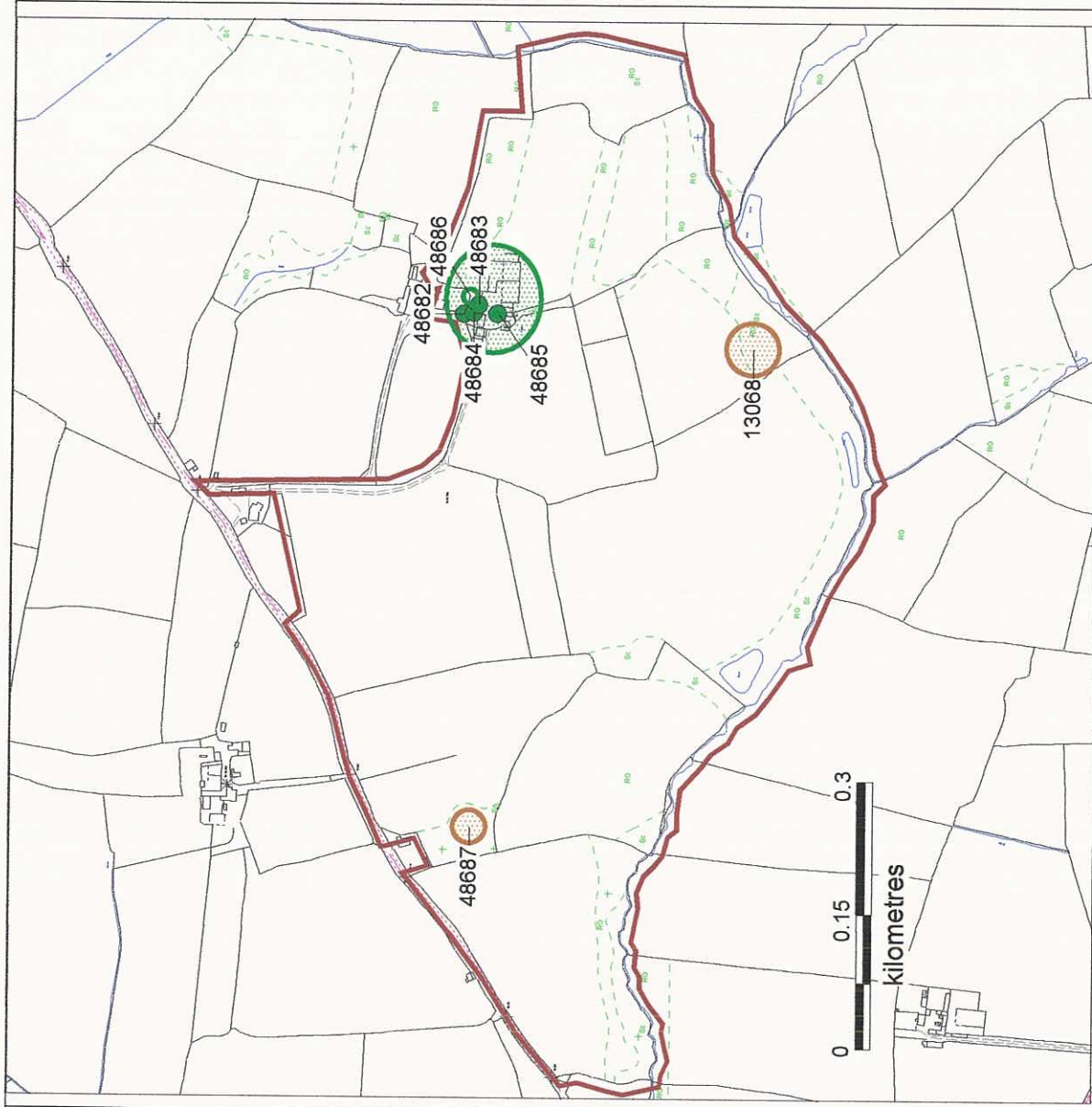
## Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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South Headborough  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3845  
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 National Grid Reference SM88611194  
 Map 2

- 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
- 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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