

Blaen-maenog W/12/3254

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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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

Blaen-maenog Farm (PRN 49224) is centred on SN36013522, three kilometres to the south of Felinde and just to the south of the Carmarthenshire border with Ceredigion. Farmland here faces east, and slopes down to a stream which forms the eastern boundary of the holding. It is divided into irregular small to medium sized fields divided by low earth banks, topped with hedges in various stages of becoming grown out. This field pattern remains largely unchanged since the Penboyr Parish tithe map of 1840, although some boundary loss has occurred.

This is in contrast with the southern part of the holding. This was formerly part of Rhos Penboyr common and was enclosed in 1866. Earth banks and wire fences now divide this area, although its open and exposed character persists, recalling its former status as common land.

The development of Blaen-maenog farmstead is complex and occurred in several phases. The historic maps document a gradual but significant shift in the emphasis of the farmstead from a location centred on SN36113520 to the present-day farmstead site at SN36033522. The earlier farmstead site (PRN 49210) was almost completely abandoned by 1891, whilst the present-day farmstead (PRN 49225) did not take on its present U-shaped form until sometime after 1907.

The buildings of the forgotten farmstead (PRNs 49218, 49219, 49220) survive at best in a ruinous condition today. This is in contrast to the present-day farmstead of Blaenmaenog. Modern agricultural buildings have been added to the east, away from the traditional buildings (PRNs 49221, 49222, 49223), and the historic appearance of the farmstead is well preserved.

Archaeology at Blaen-maenog is rich and diverse, spanning a period of several thousand years. Prehistoric activity is well represented here. Crug Perva (PRN 2303), a well preserved round barrow dominates the skyline in the south of the holding. It dates to the Bronze Age (2000 to 600BC) and is a fine example of this type of funerary monument, which characterises this period.

Caer Blaen Maenog (PRN 2280) is an important local landmark. It occupies an elevated position above the confluence of two streams to the north of the holding. It is a fine example of a promontory fort, and a series of impressive defensive earthwork banks survive. It is likely to date to the Iron Age, although it could have earlier origins.

The post-medieval period is represented by the site of a former cottage (PRN 49217) in the west of the holding. This is a remnant of a time of increased rural population before farms began the process of consolidation into larger and larger units from the late nineteenth century onwards. No visible evidence of the cottage survives today, although there is good potential for buried archaeological remains here.

The most recent historic sites at Blaenmaenog relate to the Second World War. A segment of a defensive stop line (PRN 33901), comprising concrete anti-tank cubes, survives largely intact at Blaen-maenog for a length of approximately half a kilometre. A hexagonal pill box (PRN 49211) designed for rifle, machine gun and anti-tank fire supplements this line of defence. These features combine to provide a rare reminder of the anti-invasion defences, which were thrown up in the

sixteen weeks beginning May 1940 to counteract an expected German invasion following the fall of France.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

PRN2280 HILLFORT

The site is currently in a stable condition, and no active threats were identified at the time of the archaeological farm visit. Trees on the earthworks should be monitored for signs of instability, and unstable specimens should be cut off at the roots, or stabilised through selective pruning in order to prevent them from falling naturally. This will prevent erosion scars from altering the appearance of the earthworks.

The entrance on the east side of the defensive earthworks continues to provide access to the interior. A hardcore track has been laid to prevent the ground surface from becoming rutted in wet conditions. This should continue to be maintained in order to prevent rutting and poaching, which is potentially damaging to buried archaeological remains.

The fenced off area of the hill fort should not be used as a location for feeding livestock, or subjected to any ground disturbing activities. Similarly, the area extending 15 metres from the base of the outer defensive ditch in the field to the south should not be subjected to any ground disturbing activities. This will also ensure the preservation of buried archaeological remains, which may survive in this area.

The provision of access to the monument has been proposed within the Tir Gofal scheme. This is to be welcomed.

PRN2303 ROUND BARROW

Visits to the site by Cadw over the years have referred to erosion as an ongoing problem, and it is clear that the round barrow will not recover naturally. Active management is necessary if the site is to be stabilised. The following management recommendations have been made in consultation with Cadw.

The aim of the management should be the restoration of the mound profile and to establish a stable grass sward over the site.

In order to protect the site, it should be temporarily fenced off with electric fencing, and re-seeded. The severe scrapes on the east side of the round barrow should be filled in with inert material from elsewhere and reseeded in order to restore the profile of the monument.

The fencing should be erected 10m from the base of the barrow. This will avoid poking the stakes through any sub-surface archaeological remains and will prevent livestock from congregating on the mound when grass cover has recovered.

The long-term benefit to the site will depend on some level of continued maintenance. Electric fencing should be reinstated in the same position if grass cover deteriorates.

No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within an area of 15 metres from the base of the barrow.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	2280	Site Name	CAER BLAEN MINOG	Grid Reference	SN36283565
Site Type	HILLFORT	Period	Iron Age		

Description

Caer Blaen Minog hillfort occupies a north facing promontory overlooking the confluence of two tributary streams of the Nant Bargod. The steepest slopes are those to the east, and there are no man-made defences here. The western side is scarped to enhance the defensive possibilities of the natural hill slope. A curving ditch, approximately six metres wide and two metres deep marks the defended northern extent of the fort.

The remains on the south side are much more substantial. A series of three massive earthwork banks with intervening ditches defend the approach from the south. The inner bank is approximately four metres high, with two outer banks, each approximately three metres high, separated by intervening ditches, which are about a metre deep. The entrance is on the east side, where all three banks stop short at the edge of the steep natural slope. In all, an area measuring approximately 90m by 60m is enclosed.

The promontory fort is currently fenced off along the line of the outer ditch to form a small field. The interior is open and accessible and is grazed periodically. Mature trees are confined to the steep slopes on the north, east and west sides, although a margin of bracken and bramble growth has become established in their shadow around the edge of the interior. The wide northern ditch is largely free from scrub growth, although some patchy gorse and bramble growth is becoming established.

This is in contrast to the massive earth banks and ditches on the southern side of the fort. These earthworks are almost completely obscured by a stand of mature oaks, interspersed with younger trees and scrubby vegetation growth. Vegetation cover is particularly dense on the west side, and bramble growth is all but impenetrable. A fallen tree here indicates the potential for erosion scars on the steep sided banks through root damage. No other unstable trees were identified during the archaeological farm visit.

Grass cover on the monument is generally shaded out by the trees, and leaf litter predominates over the surface. Some grass cover remains in areas of sparser tree covering on the east side of the earthworks and on top of some of the defensive banks. A circular scrape, approximately 4 metres in diameter and 1.5 metres deep has been removed from the outer bank. A concentration of stone rubble visible on the southern side may indicate the remnants of a stone revetment wall on the outer face of the defensive bank. No further breaks in the ground surface, or active erosion was identified on any other part of the monument. It is in a stable condition at present.

Hillforts are generally recorded as having been constructed in the Iron Age (circa 600 BC - 100AD) but scientific dating of some archaeologically excavated sites has indicated that they may have their origins in the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC). Hillforts are usually viewed as defensive

structures built with the intention of defending and securing property. They are also locations for dwellings that were used on a seasonal or permanent basis. Sites such as these may have been used over very long periods of time and, therefore, were probably put to many different uses.

Recommendations

The hillfort is currently in a stable condition, and no active threats were identified at the time of the archaeological farm visit. Trees on the earthworks should be monitored for signs of instability, and unstable specimens should be cut off at the roots, or stabilised through selective pruning in order to prevent them from falling naturally. This will prevent erosion scars from altering the appearance of the earthworks.

The entrance on the east side of the defensive earthworks continues to provide access to the interior. A hardcore track has been laid to prevent the ground surface from becoming rutted in wet conditions. This should continue to be maintained in order to prevent rutting and poaching, which is potentially damaging to buried archaeological remains. The fenced off area of the hill fort should not be used as a location for feeding livestock, or subjected to any ground disturbing activities. Similarly, the area extending 15 metres from the base of the outer defensive ditch in the field to the south should not be subjected to any ground disturbing activities. This will also ensure the preservation of buried archaeological remains, which may survive in this area.

The hillfort is a particularly well-preserved example of its type. The provision of a permissive path to the monument through the Tir Gofal scheme is to be welcomed. The visible nature of the surviving earthworks also presents opportunities for interpretation and educational access which might also be considered.

Site Category A

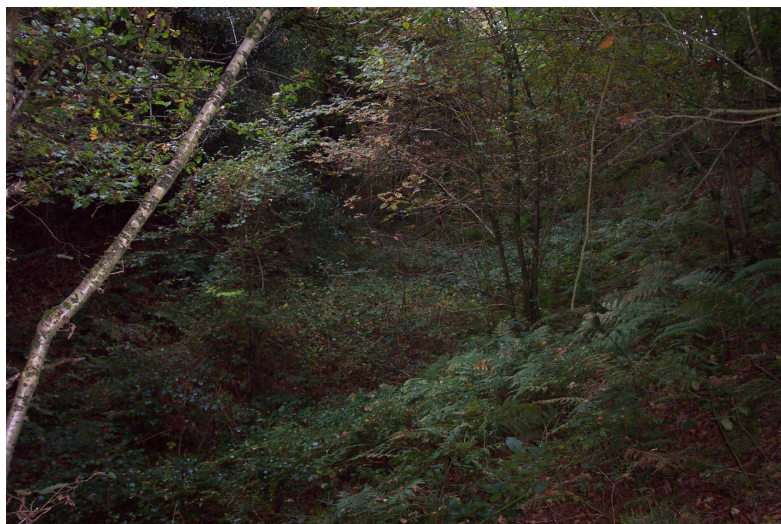


Plate 3- the defensive earthworks of Caer Blaen Minog hill fort (PRN 2280) are now heavily overgrown.

PRN	2303	Site Name	CRUG PERFA	Grid Reference	SN35583414
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	Bronze Age	Site status	SAM Cm104

Description

A large and well preserved round barrow standing some 1.7 m high and 20m in diameter. It is sited on top of a high plateau from which a number of other round barrows can be observed.

A marshy area to the east of the barrow is a seasonal watering point and livestock tend to congregate here. The round barrow is visibly trampled and scarred, with widespread loss of grass cover. This is particularly acute on the eastern side where active erosion hollows are disfiguring its profile. Similar, though less acute scars are visible from all other aspects. A white quartz boulder is visible on the south side of the barrow and other loose stones are exposed on its surface.

Cadw Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) condition reports record erosion through livestock trampling as a long-term problem, and it is clear that the round barrow will not recover naturally. Pasture surrounding the monument was heavily poached and pockmarked at the time of the archaeological farm visit.

Round barrows have been defined as “A round mound of earth and/ or stone with a flattened or rounded top presumed to be for burial and other ritual activity and initially built and used within the Neolithic and/ or Bronze Age. The mound may be enclosed by a circular or intermittent outer ditch and may have a complex structure including stone kerbs, stone settings or burial cists. Internal (and occasionally external) features are rarely able to be recorded for these monuments unless they have been excavated and documented” (Bestley, N. 2001).

Recommendations

Visits to the site by Cadw over the years have referred to erosion as an ongoing problem, and it is clear that the round barrow will not recover naturally. Active management is necessary if the site is to be stabilised.

The following management recommendations have been made in consultation with Cadw.

The aim of the management should be the restoration of the mound profile and to establish a stable grass sward over the site.

In order to protect the site, it should be temporarily fenced off with electric fencing, and re-seeded. The severe scrapes on the east side of the round barrow should be filled in with inert material from elsewhere and reseeded in order to restore the profile of the monument.

The fencing should be erected 10m from the base of the barrow. This will avoid poking the stakes through any sub-surface archaeological remains and will prevent livestock from congregating on the mound when grass cover has recovered.

The long-term benefit to the site will depend on some level of continued maintenance. Electric fencing should be reinstated in the same position if grass cover deteriorates.

No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within an area of 15 metres from the base of the barrow.

Site Category A



Plate 1- looking east towards Crug Perfa roundbarrow (PRN 2303)



Plate 2- active erosion hollow on the eastern side of Crug Perfa round barrow (PRN 2303).

PRN	33901	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN36043469; SN35993453;
Site Type	STOP LINE	Period	Modern		

Description

A stop line comprising a line of reinforced concrete cubes, extending from the Felindre-Tycoch road, for a distance of approximately 400m to the head of a steep sided river valley. The 1.5m square concrete cubes are built edge on and set about a metre apart. A pillbox (PRN 49211) is set into the line approximately 250m to the north of the road.

This stop line forms part of the larger Western Command: Carmarthen Stop Line (PRN 31416). This line comprises a continuous geographical anti-tank obstacle, running from the mouth of the Afon Tywi to Carmarthen, thence to Llangeler via Cynwyl Elfed. From this point, it continues north to Llangranog. A date between 1940 and the end of the summer of 1941 has been suggested for its construction (Glover 1990, 88).

Such stop lines are part of a range of obstacles of various shapes and sizes, which were designed to slow down the enemy advance and allow local forces to mount an aggressive defence (Glover 1990, 81). Pill boxes, or strong posts were typically added at strategic locations for added support. One such pill box (PRN 49211) is set into the stop line at Blaenmaenog Farm. Another example, known from documentary evidence to have been located near to the road, and just outside of the boundary of the holding, has since been lost.

A rectangular mine field (PRN 49212) to the east of the stop line provided an additional deterrent. Records relating to the stop line at Llangeler are scarce, although a compliment of soldiers can be inferred from contemporary war diaries.

The section of the Rhos Llangeler stop line at Blaenmaenog Farm remains largely intact today. Anti-tank cubes have been displaced in two locations to permit machinery access to farmland to the west.

Recommendations

The anti tank blocks are a rare surviving remnant of the Wester Command: Carmarthen World War II stop line, which extended from the mouth of the Tywi to the south, to Llangeler to the north. In order to preserve the stop line, the anti tanks blocks should be retained in their current position.

Site Category A

PRN	49210	Site Name	BLAEN-MINOG; BLAEN-MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36113520
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The historic maps document a gradual but significant shift in the emphasis of Blaen-maenog farmstead from a location centred on SN36113520 to the present-day site at SN36033522.

The earlier farmstead site first appears on the tithe map of 1840. This drawing shows three buildings, but is rather stylised and may not be an accurate representation. The buildings are first seen in accurate detail on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. This shows a haphazard arrangement centred around a long building range (PRN 49218), with smaller buildings (PRNs 49219, 49220) to the east and west. This farmstead was obviously declining by this time and these two buildings are shown to be abandoned. The last of these buildings was abandoned sometime after 1907. This seems to have coincided with the development of the present-day farmstead of Blaen-maenog (PRN 49225) which follows a typical late-nineteenth/early-twentieth century U-shaped plan and lies about 50 metres to the west. The only visible remains of the earlier farmstead to survive today are the low wall footings of agricultural building PRN 49218.

Recommendations

Detailed management recommendations on individual buildings which make up the early farmstead are provided within the gazetteer (PRNs 49218, 49219, 49220).

Site Category C



Plate 4- looking northwest towards the stop line (PRN 33901) and pill box (PRN 49211)

PRN	49211	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35993452
Site Type	PILL BOX	Period	Modern		

Description

This Type 24 “shell-proof” pill box is located in the World War II defensive stop line at Rhos Llangeler. It is of hexagonal design, and measures approximately six metres along its long axis. It is constructed of reinforced concrete with external clay brick shuttering on the walls, and a turf covered reinforced concrete roof. Narrow splayed loop holes are situated in the centre of each wall.

The hexagonal design enabled the pill box to be positioned in such a way to give a good field of fire for rifle and machinegun fire. It provided cover over the stop line (PRN 33901) to its north and south.

Some of the clay brick shuttering is coming away from the outside of the pill box. This is superficial rather than structural however and the pill box remains in a stable condition. Some scrubby vegetation is becoming established in the turf cover on the roof of the pill box.

Recommendations

Vegetation should be monitored and kept under control to prevent structural damage being caused to the pill box.

Site Category A

PRN	49212	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35953452
Site Type	MINE FIELD	Period	Modern		

Description

Mine field to the west of the World War II Rhos Llangeler stop line identified during the Defence of Britain Project from contemporary records (Council for British Archaeology 2002). It is described as a sub-rectangular plan minefield within a barbed wire enclosure, and is reported to have been removed in the period between 1942 and 1950. We hold no further information on the nature or extent of this mine field. No visible evidence to suggest the former presence of a mine field was seen during the archaeological farm visit.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category D

PRN	49213	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35723420
Site Type	ROUND BARROW?	Period	Bronze Age?		

Description

A possible round barrow identified on aerial photographs taken in 1955. It is sited on top of a high plateau from which several other round barrows can be observed notably Crug Perfa (PRN 2303) to the westsouthwest, and Carn Wern (PRN 2305) to the eastnortheast. No above ground evidence of a round barrow was observed during the archaeological farm visit. There is good potential for buried archaeological remains surviving here however.

Recommendations

This possible round barrow lies within an area of known prehistoric activity. There is potential for further buried archaeological remains surviving here, which may not yet have been identified. The field in which this site lies should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activity. The area within 15 metres of the location specified should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.

Site Category D

PRN	49214	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35643537
Site Type	POND	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A small pond approximately 400m to the west of Blaenmaenog farmstead (PRN 49225) first seen on the 1891 six inch to a mile Ordnance Survey map. It is shown to be tear drop shaped, measuring approximately 20 by 15metres on an east west alignment in the northeast corner of a field. The pond is now fenced off, neglected and heavily overgrown with willow. It was dry at the time of the archaeological farm visit.

Recommendations

The pond should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature. Ideally some clearance works should be considered in order to restore to its original appearance. The original pond profile and appearance should be retained.

Site Category C

PRN	49215	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35703542
Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A short trackway leading from Waun-fawr farmstead for approximately 200m before opening out into fields to the south. First seen on 1840 Penboyr Parish tithe map. It is approximately eight metres wide and flanked on either side by hedges on earth banks. It is well maintained and continues to serve as a farm trackway today.

Recommendations

The trackway should continue to be maintained for use as a farm trackway. The field boundaries should be maintained in a sustainable manner.

Site Category C

PRN	49216	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35843489
Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Long trackway leading south from Blaen-maenog for approximately 600 metres before opening out onto the former common land of Rhos Penboyr. First seen on the 1840 Penboyr Parish tithe map. It is well maintained and continues to serve as a farm trackway. It is flanked by hedges on both sides.

Recommendations

The trackway should continue to be maintained for use as a farm trackway. The field boundaries, which line this trackway should be maintained in a sustainable manner.

Site Category C

PRN	49217	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN35483471
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Cottage marked on Penboyr tithe map (1840) and listed in tithe apportionment as “cottage and garden”. Abandoned by time of 1891 Ordnance Survey map. On the 1955 aerial photographs, mature trees mark out the edge of the garden. The field in which the site lies was under cultivation at the time of the archaeological farm visit. Nothing of the cottage or garden enclosure remains visible today. Agricultural buildings have since been added on neighbouring land to the southwest.

Recommendations

There is good potential for buried archaeological remains surviving here. The area within 10 metres of the site specified should not be ploughed, subjected to any ground intrusive activities or used as a location for feeding livestock.

Site Category C

PRN	49218	Site Name	BLAEN- MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36113520
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A long building range first seen on the Penboyr parish tithe map (1840), and depicted in accurate detail on the 1889, 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. It lies approximately 50 metres to the east of the present farmstead of Blaen-maenog, and may have formed part of the earlier farmstead (PRN 49210). The early map sources indicate rough dimensions of 20m by 6m on a northeast-southwest alignment. Two small units are shown abutting the southwest end of the range.

Few built structural remains survive today, and the site is neglected and overgrown. The remnant walls of the two smaller units to the southwest remain visible to a height of approximately one metre. In plan, these each measure approximately four by three metres, a size which might suggest a former use as a pigsty. Little of the structure survives to the north of this save the remnant walls of the northeast gable end, which survive to approximately 1.5metres. The low rubble wall footings of part of the southeast lateral wall can also be made out. Interpreting the original function of the building is problematical due to its ruinous condition. Possible interpretations include a house and byre farmstead, or a multi-purpose combination farm building in its own right.

The site is currently fenced out, neglected and overgrown. Mature trees interspersed with younger saplings have become established over the site. Some corrugated iron sheeting and fencing materials have been discarded here. The area to the northwest of the building is now heavily disturbed, having been subjected to some earthmoving activity in the past, apparently to create a pond.

Recommendations

No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within an area of 10 metres from the edge of the building. Trees growing out of the wall and interior of the building should be monitored for signs of instability. Unstable specimens should be cut off at the roots to prevent them from falling naturally. This will prevent uprooting of built or buried archaeological remains. Discarded fencing materials and other farm rubbish should be removed from the site.

Site Category C

PRN	49219	Site Name	BLAEN- MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36133519
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A small rectangular building seen on the 1889 25 inches to a mile Ordnance Survey map, approximately 60 metres to the east of the present farmstead. Like agricultural building (PRN 49218) nearby, it may have formed part of an earlier farmstead at Blaen-maenog (PRN 49210). It is shown to be abandoned at this time. No above ground evidence of the building was identified during the archaeological farm visit.

Recommendations

No above ground evidence of the building remains visible today. No ground intrusive activities should be undertaken within 10 metres of the site specified.

Site Category C

PRN	49220	Site Name	BLAEN- MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36073520
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A large rectangular building first seen on the 1840 Penboyr Parish tithe map, and shown in accurate detail on the 1889, 25 inches to a mile Ordnance Survey map. It lies approximately 50 metres to the east of the present farmstead of Blaen-maenog and together with agricultural buildings (PRNs 49218 and 49219) it may have formed part of an earlier farmstead (PRN 49210). Modern agricultural buildings have since been added at this location and nothing of this building survives.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN	49221	Site Name	BLAEN-MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36013521
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This combination farm building forms part of a continuous range, which defines the southwestern boundary of the farmyard at Blaen-maenog farmstead (PRN 49225), and abuts combination farm building (PRN 49222) to the northwest. It follows a general northeast-southwest alignment and measures approximately 14 by 6 metres. It is of roughly squared stone construction, with a pitched slate roof. Its lower storey was originally divided into two bays; a cowshed to the southeast, and cart shed to the northwest.

Several concrete stall partitions and platforms survive in the southeastern bay of the building indicating a former use as a cow shed. A narrow central doorway is situated in the centre of the northeast lateral wall, with window openings on either side, although that to the right has since been filled in. Neighbouring this to the northwest is a double cart shed bay. The double low-arched cart shed openings have been partially bricked up to create two narrow doorways and a square window opening. Any historic internal arrangements have since been lost and this part of the building has since been converted. A loose box and lateral manger now occupy this space.

Access to the upper storey is gained through a narrow door up a set of stone steps in the southeast lateral wall. The loft would originally have extended over the entire length of the building. Only the space above the cow shed is lofted today, however. The former loft above the cart shed is indicated today by a few surviving joists and a narrow doorway, in the partition wall at upper level

A stylised drawing of the farmstead on the tithe map of 1840 shows a rectangular building in roughly the same location, which may correspond to this building. It can first be positively identified on the 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map and is at least of a late nineteenth century date. It is currently in a poor condition, and some maintenance works are necessary if it is to be brought back into a stable condition. Wall footings have become displaced in the north lateral wall and threaten to undermine this part of the building. Lime mortar bonds are washed out in many areas and there is further risk of masonry becoming unstable. A tree is growing out of the wall footings in the southeast gable end. This is a potential cause of structural instability in this part of the building. The granary steps nearby have since collapsed.

The roof is also a concern. Some slates are missing, whilst many others are loose.

Recommendations

Displaced and unstable masonry should be replaced and reconsolidated where necessary. This should be followed up by a more general programme of masonry consolidation. Missing and unstable roof slates should be replaced in order to bring the building back into a weatherproof

condition. Materials used should be compatible with those of its original construction. The tree growing out of the southeast gable end should be cut off at the roots and spot treated to prevent re-growth.

This building makes an important contribution to the group value of the farmstead. It would be a significant loss if it were allowed to deteriorate further.

Site Category C



Plate 5- northeast elevation of combination farm building (PRN 49221). Adjoining combination farm building (PRN 49222) visible beyond.

PRN	49222	Site Name	BLAEN- MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36013521
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This building forms part of the southwestern boundary of the farmyard at Blaen-maenog farmstead (PRN 49225). It follows a general northeast-southwest alignment and measures approximately 16 by 6 metres. It is of roughly squared stone construction, with a pitched slate roof. Its lower storey is divided into two bays; a cartshed to the southeast, and a granary/ storage area to the northwest. The single cart shed bay is accessed from the farmyard through a wide cart entrance with a wooden lintel. The threshing floor and storage space occupies the remainder of the building to the northwest.

Flag stones indicate the area of the threshing floor. It is accessed through a narrow door up a set of low stone steps in the northeast lateral wall. Opposing this in the southwest lateral wall is an identical narrow doorway. Slit ventilators improved air flow within the main threshing bay of the building. The large area beyond the threshing floor to the northwest would have served as storage space for unthreshed corn and straw.

A loft occupies the space above the cart shed to the south east. This may have served as granary space for the storage of grain after it had been threshed.

A stylised drawing of the farmstead on the tithe map of 1840 shows a rectangular building in roughly the same location, which may correspond to this building. It can first be positively identified on the 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map and is at least of a late nineteenth century date. It is in a reasonable condition, and is presently used for storage. A few roof slates are missing, whilst others are loose. A tree growing out of the southwest lateral wall is threatening to displace wall footings.

Recommendations

Missing and unstable roof slates should be replaced. The tree growing out of the southwest lateral wall should be cut off at the roots and spot treated to prevent re-growth. This should be followed up by a programme of masonry consolidation where necessary. Materials used should be compatible with those of its original construction.

Site Category C

PRN	49223	Site Name	BLAEN- MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36033522
Site Type	COW SHED?	Period	Modern		

Description

This possible cow shed occupies the northeastern side of the farmyard at Blaen-maenog farmstead (PRN 49225). It follows a general northwest-southeast alignment and measures approximately 14 by 6 metres. It is of uncoursed stone rubble construction with a pitched slate roof. It is much modified from its original appearance and has since been converted into a dairy with an internal herringbone milking parlour. Original door openings in the southwest lateral wall, and the northwest gable end remain and are now complemented by additional openings, notably in the southeast gable end. A modern shed now obscures part of the southwest lateral wall.

This building first appears on map sources after 1907 and is of an early twentieth century date. It is currently well maintained and in a reasonable condition.

Recommendations

The building should continue to be maintained using materials and techniques, which are appropriate to those of its original construction.

Site Category C

PRN	49225	Site Name	BLAEN-MINOG; BLAEN-MAENOG	Grid Reference	SN36033522
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval; Modern		

Description

The historic maps document a gradual but significant shift in the emphasis of the farmstead from a location centred on SN36113520 to the present-day farmstead site at SN36033522.

A stylised drawing of the farmstead is provided on the tithe map of 1840 and a single building is depicted. The first accurate representation, the 1889 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map shows a linear range of two buildings (PRNs 49221, 49222). The farmstead did not take on its present form until sometime after 1907 when it developed into a typical late-nineteenth/ early-twentieth century U-shaped plan. This appears to have coincided with the abandonment of the earlier farmstead (PRN 49210) at Blaen-maenog.

The farmhouse, a typical example of the Carmarthenshire farmhouse built from the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth century, is situated at the head of a rectangular farmyard which is flanked on either side by agricultural buildings (PRNs 49221, 49222, 49223). This arrangement remains intact today, although traditional buildings PRNs 49221, 49222 are in need of some restoration works if they are to be maintained in a stable condition necessary for their long term survival.

Recommendations

Traditional farm buildings at Blaen-maenog should continue to be maintained in a weatherproof condition using materials and techniques which are compatible with those of their original construction. Detailed management recommendations on individual buildings are provided within the gazetteer (PRNs 49221, 49222, 49223).

Site Category C

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

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Meridian Airmaps 230-230. 23653

Ordnance Survey 1889 Carmarthenshire XIII.16, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XIII SE, 6"

Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire XIII SE, 6"

Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire XII NE, 6"

Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire XII NE, 6"

Plan of Llangeler, Penboyr and Kilrhedin Inclosure, 1866

Tithe Map 1840 Penboyr Parish

Tithe Apportionment 1838 Penboyr Parish

BLAEN-MAENOG

REPORT NUMBER 2003/107

30TH October 2003

This report has been prepared by William Steele

Position Tir Gofal Archaeologist

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

Blaenmaenog Farm
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3254
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45934
 National Grid Reference SN36013522


 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

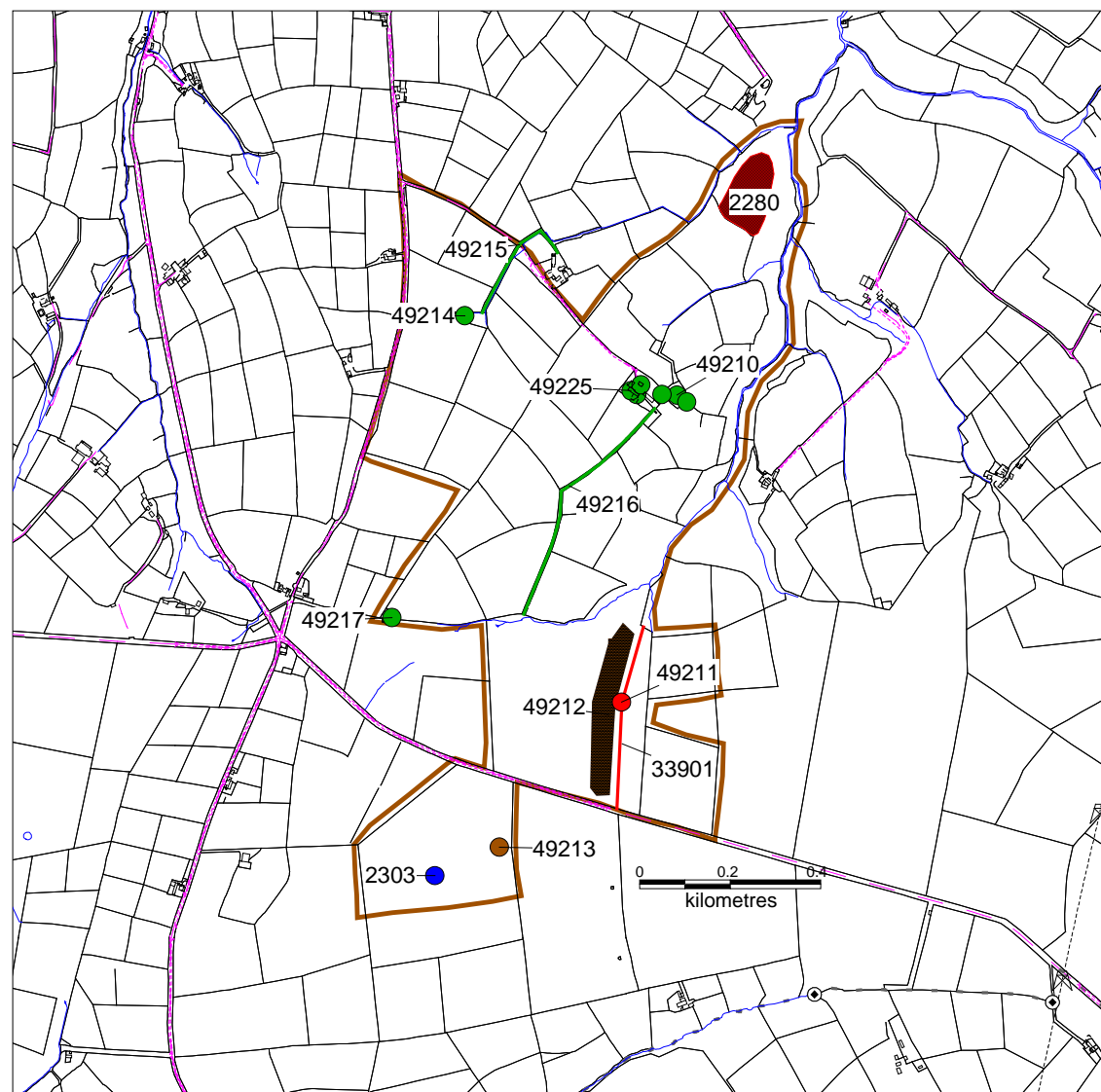
Site Category C - Local Importance

-  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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Blaenmaenog Farm
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3524
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45934
 National Grid Reference SN36013522

 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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