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**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:  
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION  
(Call Out)**

**Prepared for:  
Tanralltddu**

**Tir Gofal Reference No: W/11/3633**



**Project Record Number: 47330  
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**Prepared by  
Mike Ings**

## **Call Out Visit**

The farm was visited on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at the request of the Tir Gofal Project Officer to address specific management issues, in particular the proposed restoration and maintenance of a traditional farm building. The report does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (HE1).

The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

## Introduction

Tanralltddu farm is centred on NGR SN37753824, between Pentre-cwrt and Saron in the community of Llangeler, north Carmarthenshire. It lies within the Drefach & Felindre registered landscape (Cadw & ICOMOS, 1998), classified as being of 'Special' historic interest in Wales.

The farm largely took its present shape between the production of the 1839 tithe map for Llangeler Parish and the 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. The farmstead itself is not depicted on the tithe map, although a possible cottage is recorded at the farmstead's location. The major field boundaries are present and can be seen both on subsequent maps. However, it is clear that in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century some boundaries were removed and the land was re-organised to create fewer and larger fields.

The farmstead is recorded on the 1889 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map with a rectangular farmyard plan comprising the grade II listed farmhouse (LB 25722), two long farm buildings at right-angles, a possible pigsty and two smaller outbuildings. This arrangement, with a few minor alterations, continued through into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Of the 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, only the house and the two long farm buildings still survive within a complex now containing several modern structures.

## Description

The two surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings, gable-ended and of rubble construction, form the southwest corner of the farmstead. They were both originally slate roofed, although the southwest-northeast aligned, single storey cowshed has now had its roof replaced with corrugated-iron.

The focus of this report is the second building, a combination range comprising, from southeast-northwest, a cart shed, threshing barn and a stable. It appears that it originally stood to the same height as the cowshed but, with the exception of the cart shed, its height was later increased. Red brick quoins and window dressings were used in this second phase and the whitewash applied to the façade clearly marks the change in height.



*(Left) northeast facing façade of the cartshed, threshing-barn and stable (Right).  
Entrance to the cart shed*

The cart shed still stands to its original height and has a single square bay with a wooden lintel within the southeast gable wall, and a loft window above. The external masonry is whitewashed on two of the three sides. The interior was inaccessible during the call-out as the building is currently being used as a kennels.

There is a doorway in the rear, internal door of the cart shed that leads to the threshing barn. The barn can also be accessed through the original doorway in the façade and a high-double entrance in the rear wall, now filled in with breezeblocks. Holes in the external rear wall show where an extension to the building once stood and it is possible that it housed a horse-engine, which would have provided power for belt-driven threshing and winnowing machines. The barn has a stone floor and is open to the roof timbers. There is access to loft space to north and south, above the cart shed and stable.

The interior of the stable, accessed by a wide, solid wood-planked door, also has a stone floor and the lower half of the walls are concrete rendered, with the stonework above whitewashed.



*(Left) threshing-barn entrance and (right) rear of the threshing-barn and stable*

## Tir Gofal management recommendations

The combination barn is currently falling into disrepair and it is understood that the owner wishes to undertake some restoration work on it. The farmhouse is Grade II Listed, with its associated farm buildings falling within the listing curtilage. As such the farm buildings are subject to the same constraints. Work that affects the character of a listed building require listed building consent. Consent is not required for routine repairs or maintenance or work of like-for-like repair, however advice should be sought from the local planning authority to establish if the works constitute repairs or maintenance.

The most pressing need for repair appears to be the roof, particularly that of the cart shed where the pitch of the roof has splayed and dropped. This is likely to put extra, outward pressure onto the sidewalls, with the potential danger of collapse. Any repairs to unstable sections of walling should be carried out after taking advice from a builder, surveyor or structural engineer who has specialist knowledge of historic buildings.



*The cart shed roof (looking northeast and north)*

**The management focus is to return the combination barn to a stable and weatherproof condition using historically appropriate materials and methods of construction. Repairs should be undertaken on a like for like basis, modelled on the originals and using similar materials and methods of construction.**

There are several roof timbers and slates that require restoration or replacement. There is extensive vegetation growing on the building, particularly on the rear wall, and there is some masonry damage apparent on the northwest corner and around the breeze-blocked entrance to the threshing-barn.

### Repair

As a general rule remedial work should be guided by the need to ensure long-term survival, whilst maintaining the character of the building.

- Repair is always preferable to replacement, keeping as much of the original fabric of the building in place as possible. Replacement is only to be carried out where it is absolutely necessary.
- Replacing roof timbers: As a general rule, replacement features should be modelled on similar surviving examples. Where these do not exist the

emphasis should be on matching details appropriate for the locality and the age of the building.

- Repair or replace missing or displaced roof slates.
- Repair of walls should aim to match the original appearance as closely as possible, using similar materials and methods of construction.
- Match the type of stone used originally and the method of laying. Fallen stone may be salvageable, although additional local rubble stone brought to rough courses is appropriate.
- Consolidate areas of loose masonry using a traditional lime mortar mix, trying to follow the original mix and appearance as far as possible.



*Roof timbers within the threshing-barn*

**A secondary aim if funding is available is to enhance the historic external character of the buildings by repairing or reinstating historic doors or windows, painting joinery and lime-washing.**

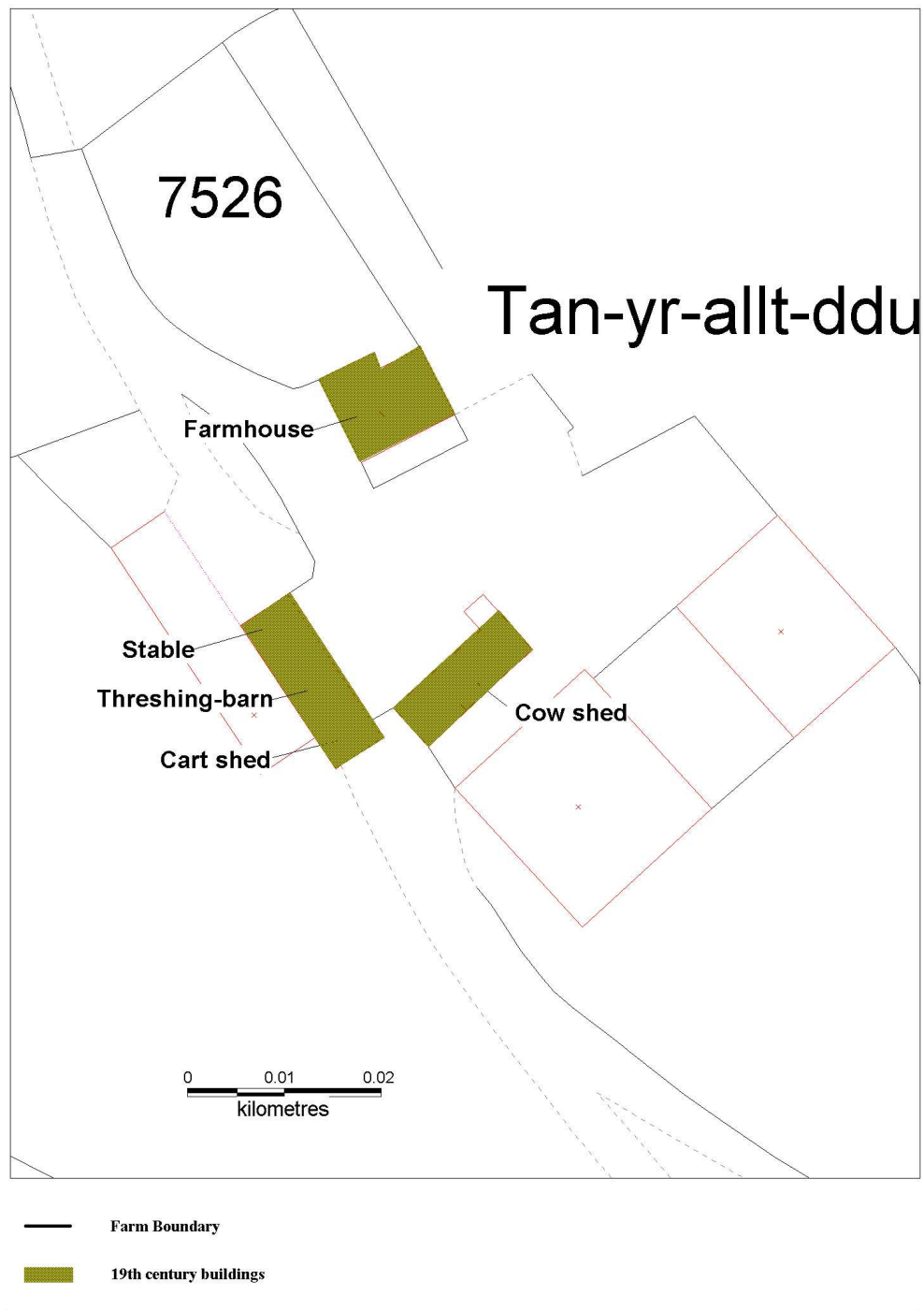
- Reinstall joinery elements (doors, windows) to traditional specifications. Inappropriate doors and windows can significantly impair the character of a historic building. As the character of the original doors and windows are not always known it may be necessary to base replacements on comparative examples from similar buildings. Contact the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for further advice if necessary.
- Joinery should be finished in a historic paint colour, based on evidence from within the farmstead itself. Stained or varnished finishes are not appropriate.
- Ideally the breezeblocks would be removed and the entrance consolidated, with traditional solid wooden plank doors reinstated, in keeping with the style and age of the building. Contact the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for further information if necessary.

### **Preventative maintenance**

**The following is recommended if extensive repairs are not made to the building in order to slow down the process of decay.**

- Cut back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

- The front elevation, to the original height, and cart shed entrance were painted with whitewash, providing weatherproofing for the stonework. This has now deteriorated and a new coating would be advisable.



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***Sources consulted:***

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire.

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1889 Ceredigion Sheet 46.05, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1906 Ceredigion Sheet 46.05, 25"

Tir Gofal Historic Environment HE1, 2003, Tanralltddu (W/11/3633)

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales*