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Glanyrynys W/12/3458

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



The barn at Glanyrynys farm

Report No. 2003/95

**Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales**

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/95
PROJECT RECORD NO. 47346

Glanyrnys
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

Alice Pyper

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ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaelolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Gaerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Trefladaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Eboost: cambria@acadat.com Gwefan: www.acadat.com

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: cambria@acadat.com Website: www.acadat.com

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CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

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INTRODUCTION

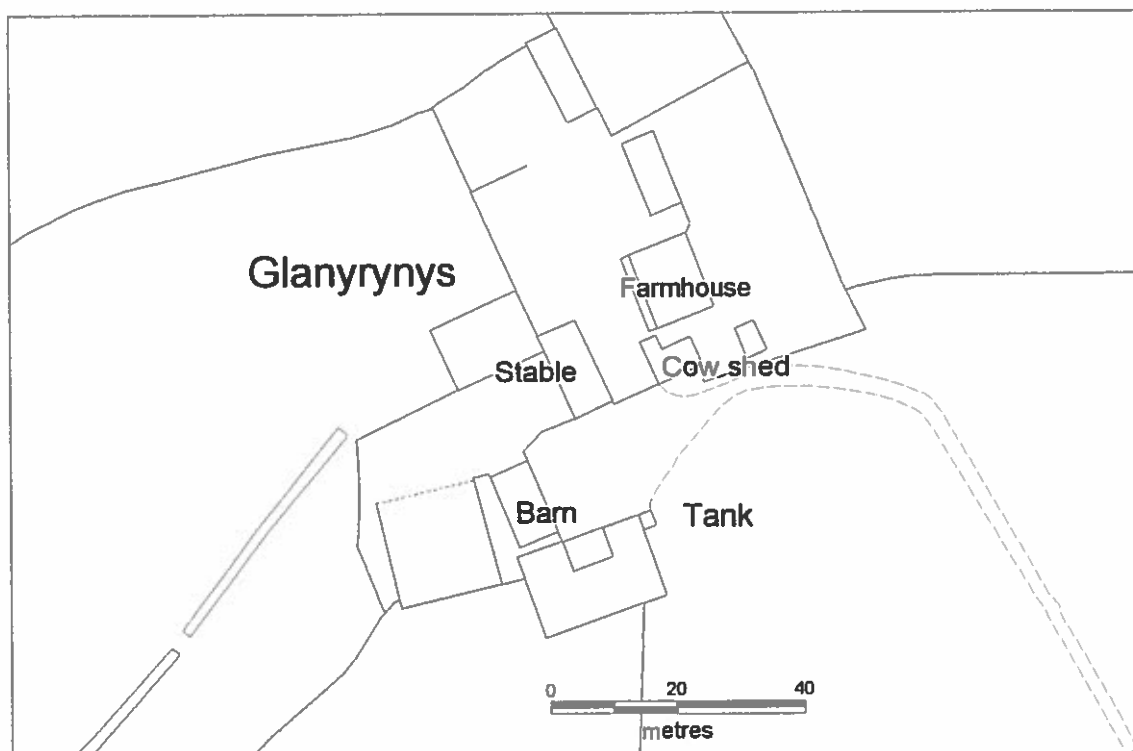
A call out visit has been requested by the Tir Gofal Project Officer in order to assess the condition and suitability of the historic farm buildings for potential restoration through the scheme. This document reports those findings and advises on aspects of the restoration which need to be taken into consideration in order to retain as much of the historic character and fabric of the buildings as possible. It is not intended as a report on the structural stability of the buildings. The farm was visited on the 20th August 2003.

General Description Of Farm (Grid Reference SN50801539)

Glanryrnys farm lies just over a kilometre to the south of Llanddarog, on the low lying land to the south of the Gwendraeth Fach and the Afon Dulais, which crosses the farm holding. The topography of the farmstead is reflected in its name.

Historically the farm appears to have been a small scale gentry farm, owned by a local landowner. It is recorded on the tithe map of 1846 as owned and occupied by Morgan John who also owned the farms of Cwrt y drainog and Llwyn brain bach. The plan of the farm seems to have little altered since this time, with modern farm buildings added to the periphery of the farmstead.

The farmstead of Glanryrnys is composed of four distinct historic elements, the farmhouse to the north of the farmstead is aligned on a northwest – southeast axis, a small cow shed to the south of the farmhouse, a stable opposite and a substantial barn to the south west of the complex.



The current layout of the farmstead of Glanryrnys

Proposed Works

The farmer is keen to undertake building restoration work on the three historic farm buildings within the farmstead. Tir Gofal, through the capital works payments, provides an excellent opportunity to carry out essential restoration works which would help to secure the long term future of the buildings.

The three buildings make up an impressive group collectively, demonstrating common features and an architectural style which stands above average farm buildings. The most distinctive common feature to the buildings are the slate roofs which are arranged with a gap between each slate in the row. This 'to brat' style is quite unusual, appearing occasionally in southwest Wales and is apparently unseen elsewhere. The buildings are also significant in that they have not been significantly altered and survive relatively intact in their external appearance. Individually each of the buildings is of modest architectural interest, although good examples of their type, however it is as a group that their historic interest is of greatest significance.

The buildings are all constructed in stone and finished with whitewash on the elevations which overlook the farmyard. The barn and the stable have dressed stone quoins (corner stones) and flat stone arches over the openings on the barn and the stable. The low cow shed shows some differences in construction to the other two buildings. The openings are finished with brick arches and the quoins are not so finely dressed. This suggests that this building may have been a slightly later construction or a rebuild. The buildings seem to conform in plan with those shown on the Tithe map of 1846 and may date from the early to mid 19th century. It is fortunate that many of the fixtures have been retained such as doors and wooden shutters.

Although all the buildings are in a fair condition, they are in need of some repairs and maintenance in order to ensure that they will remain in a stable and useful condition into the future. As a general recommendation any works that are undertaken should be carried out using traditional materials and replicating the style and pattern of construction.

The Cow Shed



The cow shed at Glanyrynys with the farmhouse behind.

The cow shed is a low one-storey building, originally the west gable end had two doorways, one of which has now been partially blocked. An additional small window is situated in the east gable. The roof is constructed with simple A-frame trusses and iron staple fixings. The roof is slated, and in common with the other buildings in the farmstead is slated in the 'to brat' style. The roof line is dropping in places, which gives the roof a slightly wavy line, although the structural timbers inside appear to be in sound condition.

This building is currently in use and has been divided up by concrete partitions to provide cattle pens. The building appears structurally intact, however slates have slipped and some batons have become rotten from the resulting water ingress.

It is recommended that the roof slates are replaced and the roof repaired in order to bring this building back into a completely weatherproof state. The west gable end is currently a problem area, in that the roof covering does not fully extend over the wall top and will inevitably cause problems with the structural integrity of the building.

The Stable



The stable is an impressive two storey building with fine stone arches over the openings.

The stable is an impressive two-storey building standing almost opposite the farmhouse. The front elevation facing northeast, is symmetrical with a central doorway and flanking windows to either side. The ground floor openings are mirrored by the openings on the first floor. In addition there is a ground floor doorway in the southwest elevation and a blocked first floor doorway above and a semi blocked first floor doorway in the southeast gable end. All the openings have early fittings surviving and in most cases these maybe original. The windows have wooden shutters and the main entrance has a folding door, with a central hinge. The stable has lost its first floor and is now open to the roof, however this does not appear to have affected its structural stability. The building was latterly used as a dairy with concrete stalls and a rear feed passage and the internal walls have a cement skim finish up to a height of approximately 1.5 metres. It is currently used as a store.

The roof is in a reasonably good condition as it was re-slatted approximately five years ago by the previous owner. However some slates have slipped and repairs are required to maintain the building in a waterproof condition.

The Threshing Barn



The barn with characteristic large opposing doorways.

The barn is set back slightly from the farmstead and positioned across a slight slope. The lower (northern) end is two storey and first floor is accessed by external stone steps against the north gable. The upper end is open to the roof and has a large double door in the east elevation, an opposing door in the west wall has been blocked with stone, but is still clearly visible. The southern end of the barn is punctuated with ventilation slits; two in the south gable end and one to the south of each of the opposing double doors. This barn was clearly used for the storing and processing of crops. This processing of crops was still carried out in this building until quite recently as an electric grinding machine is still in place in the north end room, although no longer used.

The roof structure is still intact although slates are slipping and the roof is beginning to look quite ragged, suggesting that the slate fixings are failing. The farmer is keen to re-slate this building entirely and to replace batons where necessary. He has also expressed interest in putting felt under the slates. This is not a desirable introduction in the restoration of an old farm building and is thought to interfere with ventilation which may cause problems in the future.

There is also a leaking gutter, attached to the large corrugated iron barn to the rear, which is directing water against the west elevation. This should be repaired in order to protect the stonework of the barn from water damage. The external steps to the granary are becoming overgrown with saplings which are becoming established within the masonry. This should be cut off at ground level and the roots spot treated to prevent regrowth. Any further saplings which are growing close to the walls should also be cut back.

To conclude, the farm buildings at Glanryrnys form a pleasing group, displaying characteristics which suggest a substantial investment from the owner in the 19th century. Fortunately all the buildings have been well maintained in the past and survive intact in a reasonable condition. It is important that the maintenance of the buildings is continued in order that they go on to be useful buildings into the future. The funding provided by the Tir Gofal scheme could effectively carry out repairs which would return them to excellent condition, thus securing the long term preservation of this farm group.

REFERENCES

Tithe Map of Llanddarog Parish 1846

Tithe Apportionment of Llanddarog Parish 1839

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XL SW; 1891.

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XL SE; 1891.

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XLVII NW; 1891.

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XLVII NE; 1891.

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XL SW; 1907.

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XL SE; 1907.

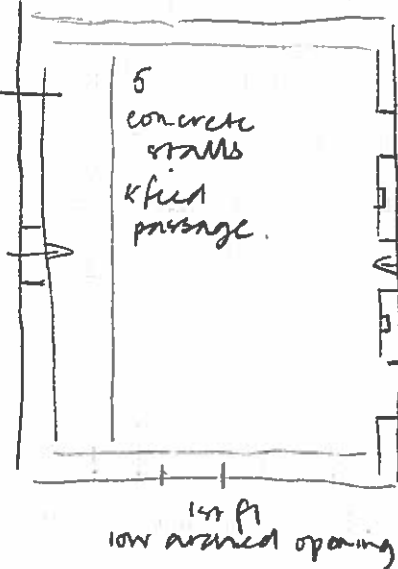
Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XLVII NW; 1907.

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Carmarthenshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XLVII NE; 1907.

FARMHOD.

Re-roofed c. 5yrs ago.
some slipped slates.
repairs proposed.
1st floor removed joist holes visible

cement
render
internal
up to 1.5.



3 openings with
shutters in 1st floor.

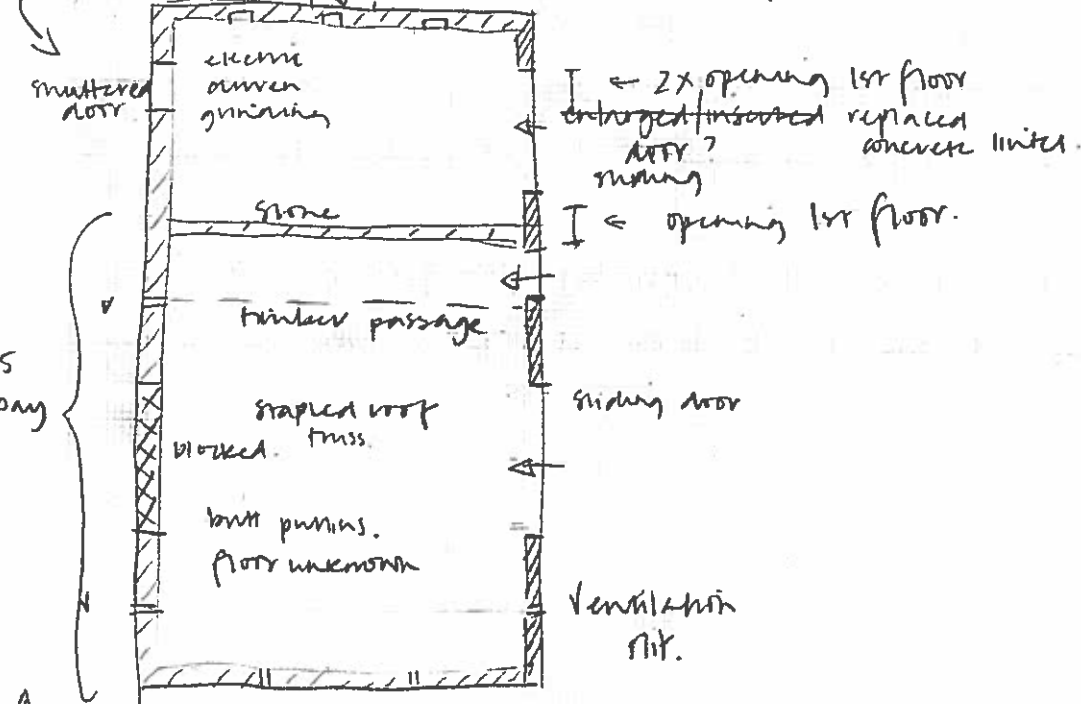
half hinged door

brick
arch
opening.

1 storey.

some slates
slipping & roof
line dropping
in places.

not maintained
external steps.



c.i. Barn & lean-to at rear
gutter of lean-to broken - should
repair, currently water may
down ext. wall.

Alamyrgynys W/12/3458. Start mileage 79331 20/8/03.
Parcel - SN28714427. Proj 41413.

Buildings - All buildings have slate 'tor drat' roofs.

Whitewashed exteriors. No gutters.

Dressed quoins on barn & stable, mobile stone

Farmer wants to put felt down on the barn roof

Smaller cowshed is made in a less well constructed way.

Currently has a budget of £1800 from CWT to be
matched by Mr Jones

**Glanryrnys
W/12/3458**

REPORT NUMBER 2003/95

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Heritage Management Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature Alice Pyper Date 2nd September 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 2nd Sept 2003

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