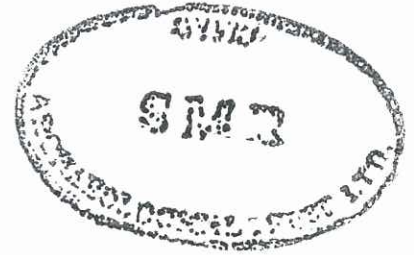


OCT 2003



PANTIORLECH

W/11/3693

**Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report
Call Out**



Report No. 2003/114

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/114
PROJECT RECORD NO. 47837

October 2003

Pantiorlech
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report
Call Out

By

Polly Groom

Cambria Archaeology is the marketing name of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited.

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA
Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: 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

The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: B.C.BURNHAM, MA PHD FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: E G HUGHES BA MIFA

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
General Description of Farm	4
Statement of Condition / Proposed Works	6
Management Recommendations	12
References	13
Quality Assurance Report	14

Introduction

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to address specific management issues on this farm. 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.

The Call Out Report responds to management issues regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

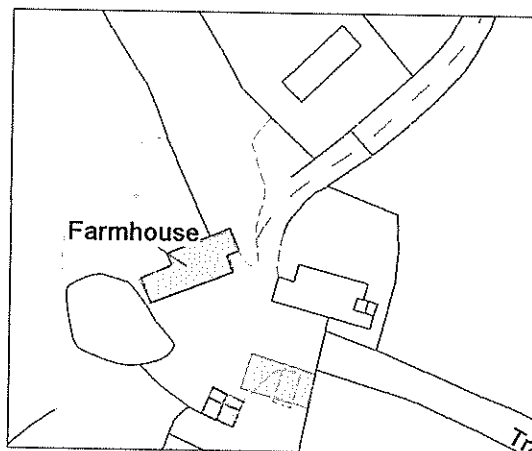
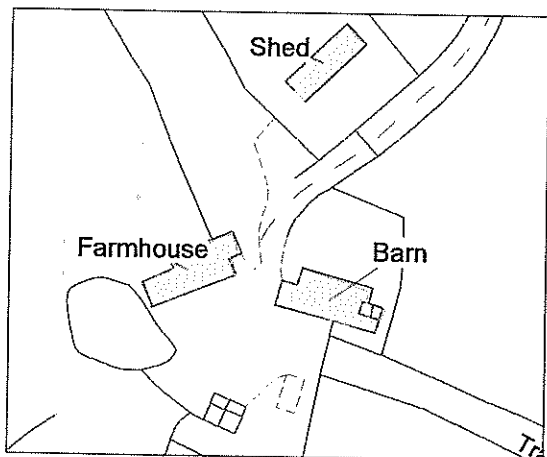
Pantiorlech lies at grid reference SN42904637, in the community of Llandysul. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on October 21st, 2003.

Pantiorlech lies in a landscape of scattered individual farms, interspersed with a number of hamlets and small villages. Fields vary in shape and size, but tend to be quite regular in shape and medium sized along the valley bases, becoming more irregular on the higher ground. A number of mills are marked on the historic maps, and many of the settlements are clustered around a mill and/or a chapel.

Pantiorlech farmstead is seen on the Ordnance Survey old series map of 1834, and is depicted in more detail on the Llandysul parish tithe map (1846?). It is named as Pant-Wrlech on the tithe apportionment (1841) and is also seen on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 and 1906). The field pattern within the farm has undergone few, if any, changes since the late 19th century and the farm is crossed by a substantial trackway (visible as an earthwork in the field southwest of the house, and as a hollow way just south of the farm buildings) which was seen on the 1891 map. The driveway leading from the road to the farm is also a substantial hollow way, and both these tracks may well be of considerable age.

At first glance, the positioning of the house and barn seems to have changed little throughout the nineteenth century but close examination of the map sources tells a different story – in fact, the house itself is the only building which is seen on the tithe map and is still seen today. The barn which stands today appears to be roughly the same size and orientation as one of the buildings on the Ordnance Survey maps, but it is placed on the north side of the farm drive. It is not marked on the 1891 or 1906 Ordnance Survey map – the older building was on the south side of the track. Today's barn must date from the early years of the twentieth century.

The landowner has expressed an interest in doing building restoration works on the barn. This is to be welcomed, since the barn is an excellent example of a multi-purpose agricultural building and is generally in fair to good condition. It houses a cowshed, stables, feed/tack room and pigsty on the ground floor, and the upper floor would have served as a hay or feed loft and also housed a threshing floor. The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the barn was also something of a local landmark, with a number of local residents recalling working at Pantiorlech during harvest times.

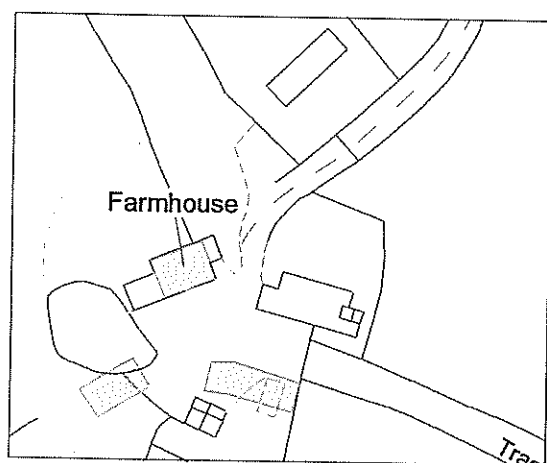


Plan of Pantiorlech farmstead.

Above left: Buildings shaded blue are standing today.

Above right: As seen on the 1891 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps.

Below: As seen on the 1846? tithe map.



STATEMENT OF CONDITION

The barn at Pantiorlech is an excellent example of a very efficiently designed combination farm building. It is essentially a bank barn, built of rough-coursed stone which is bound with lime mortar containing a large amount of stone inclusions. The roof is slate tiled – the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the farmhouse was re-slatted some years back and many of the useable slates from the house was re-used on the barn roof. The building is terraced into a slight hillside, so that access from the north side is into the ground floor, and access from the south side is via two ramps into the upper floor. A modern car-port has been added against the north elevation of the barn.

The ground floor

At the east end of the ground floor are the remains of a pigsty. This was originally a 'lean-to' style sty, with a sloping roof. Previous owners had partly built up the walls with breeze-block and corrugated iron, in order to convert the pigsty into a stable. However, the original line of the building can still be seen, and much of the stonework is in a fair condition. The pigsty is in use as a woodshed, no internal features are visible.



Plate 1 *The pigsty against the east gable of the barn. The wooden door and corrugated metal walling were added when the pigsty was made into a stable. The breeze-block on the right of the picture is part of the modern car-port and shed, added against the north elevation of the building.*

Immediately west of the pigsty is the cowshed. This is of a simple style, with alternate doors and windows in the north elevation, and a small window and a number of ventilation holes in the south (back) wall. The windows and doors are uniformly decorated with red-brick arches above them. No stalls or tethering posts survive within the cowshed, but a manure passage runs along the north side of the building, and a trapdoor in the ceiling on the south side would have allowed fodder to be dropped straight into a rack. A stone-built internal wall sub-divides this section of the building.

The cowshed has undergone a number of alterations. A recess in the north wall houses a copper boiler (the flue can be seen on the north elevation of the building) which the landowner says dates from the 1950s, when the building was used as a milking parlour. A loose-box has been constructed within the cowshed, at its west end, but this has had no real impact on the structure of the building. More serious are two holes which were knocked into the walls to serve as stable doors – one in the west internal wall and one in the north elevation, enlarging what had been a window into a doorway. These have not been properly finished, and are still rough edged with the core of the walls exposed.



Plate 2 (left) *The centre of the north elevation of the building – the cowshed area.*



Plate 3 (right) *Interior of the cowshed. The copper boiler on the left is from the barn's use as a milking parlour, whilst the hole in the rear wall was created during the barn's use as a stable.*

A small room to the east of the cowshed is formed from two sturdy wooden partition walls, and probably served as a feed or tack-room. It can only be accessed from inside the building – doors on each side of the room lead into the stables or the cowshed. On the west wall of this room is a clearly visible line where a staircase used to run, leading into a trapdoor up to the hayloft. The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that they had removed the staircase since it was badly affected by woodworm.

At the eastern end of the building is the stable. This is perhaps the best preserved of the building sections, retaining its original floor, the wooden partition wall to the tack-room and a wooden upright post which probably marks the position of the partition between two stalls. The size of the stalls, as well as their incorporation into a multi-purpose building suggests that this stable was intended for heavy horses – working horses, rather than riding horses, which were normally housed in a separate stable building. The stable floor is of small, square blue tiles, with ridges

between them. These helped to stop shod horses from slipping on cobbles or stones and also allowed easy drainage and mucking out of the stables. A drainage channel runs just behind the stalls, passing through a small culvert in the north face of the building.

The cowshed, tack-room and stables are all in use for storage, and the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the cowshed was, until recently, also used as a poultry house.



Plate 4 *The well preserved stables which would have housed two working horses. Although the partition between the stalls is now gone, the upright wooden post marks its position. The wooden wall to the left of the picture forms the side of the feed/tack-room. Note the original stable floor.*

The first floor

Originally, the first floor would have been accessed both by a staircase leading from the feed/tack-room, and by ramps into doors in the south elevation – unusually, there is no external staircase and no sign that one was ever constructed.

The upper storey is basically in two parts, with a threshing floor at the west end and storage running the rest of the length of the building. There are three doors in the south elevation – the main, double doors into the threshing floor at the west end, a smaller set of double doors in about the middle of the building and a small, single door which no longer has a ramp up to it.

The relatively late date of the barn is reflected in the design of the threshing floor – it is only accessed by one double door, rather than having the more usual pair of opposing double doors. Opposing doors provided a through draft, allowing winnowing and hand-threshing to be carried out. In later barns, where winnowing and threshing were carried out by machine, a through draft was no longer necessary. Consequently later threshing floors are sometimes seen, as this one is, with only one door (Wiliam:1986:p.156).



Plate 5 *The south elevation of the barn.*

The north elevation of the upper storey contains four windows, with a further window in each gable end. The two windows at the west end of the building, and the one in the west gable end, have been recently replaced with modern wooden windows in the same openings. However, the windows in the east part of the building are original, and are interesting features which provide clues to the building's original function. Each window contains six panes of glass in its top two-thirds. The bottom third consists of two wooden shutters. These would have provided controllable ventilation for stored crops, but they also probably relate to the use of the barn as one side of a foldyard. The north elevation of the barn looks onto a fairly small, flattened piece of

ground with traces of a hedgebank around its north and east sides. This enclosure is bounded on the south side by the barn and on the west side by the farm drive. It probably served as a fold-yard. Whilst a number of cows could be housed in the cowshed, some livestock, often including young cattle, were put in fold-yards for security and for protection from the worst of the weather. The shutters on the upstairs windows would have allowed the windows to be used as pitching eyes, dropping hay and fodder straight from the store into the fold-yard.

The interior of the first floor is in good condition, the majority of it being in use as a workshop. The area which housed the threshing floor is used for storage. The slate roof is supported on a wooden A-frame which rests on wooden pads set onto the stone walls. The structure appears to be sound.



Plate 6 (left) Detail of the windows, showing six panes of glass above two wooden shutters.

Plate 7 (right) Interior view of the double doors onto the threshing floor. Note the A-frame of the roof, which is resting on a wooden pad on the stone wall left of the doors.

The exterior

The roof has a very small overhang either side of the building, and water is collected in metal guttering on the north side, and plastic guttering on the south. Both sets of gutters are starting to fail, resulting in water running down the stonework on the north side. The barge boards are also in poor condition.

The south side of the building is partially terraced into the hillslope, but there is a gap between the building and the earth bank through which, the landowner says, cattle used to be able to pass. The earth bank was retained by a stone wall, parts of which still survive. In other areas the stonewalling has been lost, and the bank has slumped forwards, narrowing the gap between the building and the bank. About halfway along the length of the building the bank has slumped a long way forward, sufficiently that the earth is actually leaning against the stonework.



Plate 8 *The south elevation of the barn, showing the gap between the building and the earth bank. Underneath the ramp in the foreground, the bank has slumped and earth is resting against the barn wall. The stone in that area comes from the largely collapsed retaining wall.*

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The exterior

Although the exterior of the building is generally in good condition, there are two specific areas where the barn would benefit from restoration works.

The first is the replacement of all the gutters and bargeboards, most of which are in poor condition. Metal guttering (similar to that on the north of the building) should be used all the way around, and it should be ensured that water is not touching the stonework anywhere. This will help to ensure that the building remains dry and completely weatherproof.

The second area of concern is the earth bank to the south of the barn. The stone retaining wall is largely gone, and the bank is badly slumped in places. As a result, earth is leaning against the exterior walls, which will encourage dampness within the barn. The original line of the bank can still be seen and, ideally, the bank should be cut back to that level and a new retaining wall put in place. One option would be to over-cut the bank and construct the retaining wall as a free-standing stone wall. The earth could then be piled back in behind the wall. This would make the structure more stable, since the wall would be capable of weight-bearing and resisting the 'push' from the earth behind it. The other option would be to cut the bank back and construct the retaining wall *in situ*, as a stone facing to the bank. However, this may not have the same strength as a free-standing wall, and may still be liable to slumping.

If no restoration work is carried out in this area, it is critical that the 'channel' around the barn continues to be maintained and kept clear, as it is at present.

The ground floor

Generally, the ground floor is in fair to good condition. However, there are a few works which should ideally be carried out. Most notable is the need to fill in and re-build the areas of wall which were knocked through to provide stable doors. This should be done with care, using stone and mortar which matches as closely as possible the original construction of the building. In the north elevation, where a window was removed to create a doorway, either the window should be replaced (using one which matches the other ground floor windows) or, if it is necessary to retain this access, the opening should be appropriately finished and a wooden door inserted. It is important that the stonework is finished properly, otherwise water can penetrate to the cores of the walls.

Future use of the building should ensure that surviving original features (notably the stable floor and dividing post, the trapdoor in the cowshed and the wooden partition walls of the tack-room) are retained. In the long term, the re-instatement of the internal staircase is an option which could be considered.

Ideally, the pigsty should also be restored to its original size, and the temporary corrugated iron walling taken down. However, the low, sloping roof-line may make the pigsty less useful at its original size, and it would be detrimental for it to be restored only to fall out of use again. If it is decided that it is of more use as a single storey shed (as it effectively is at present) then the walls

should be built up to height in stone, again using materials which match the original construction of the building. It should be ensured that any new works do not obscure the earlier line of the pigsty roof – this should remain visible as it is at present.

The first floor

Most of the first floor is in good condition, well maintained and in use as a workshop. The principal guiding any further restoration should be that modern alterations or repairs should not obscure the original design and function of the building.

The windows in the south face and east gable are perhaps the only real cause for concern at the moment. The surviving original windows should ideally be repaired, rather than replaced. If repair is not possible, then the remaining windows should be replaced with windows made to the pattern of the original, including the six panes and the wooden shutters. The shutters are indications of the buildings agricultural purpose and should be retained as visible evidence of the barn's use as a hayloft.

The doors into the hayloft, on the south side, are currently in fair condition but will eventually need replacing. When this becomes necessary, they should also be replaced with doors made to the original pattern.

REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire XL.NE
Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire XL.NE
Ordnance Survey Old Series 1834, sheet LVII
Tithe map 1846? Llandysul [Llandyssil] parish
Tithe apportionment 1841 Llandysul [Llandyssil] parish
Wiliam,E:1986:*The Historical Farm Buildings of Wales*

**Pantiorlech
W/11/3693**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/114
PROJECT RECORD NO. 47837**

October 2003

This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature P. Groom Date 28/10/03

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 29/10/03

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