

# **Lower Lodge Farm W/12/3871**

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



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Lower Lodge Farm  
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

Lower Lodge Farm lies at grid reference SN66912640, in the community of Manordeilo and Salem. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2003.

The farmland lies on gentle slopes on the north side of the Towy Valley. Although encompassing Lower Lodge Farmstead (PRN 49714), the holding is actually centred around Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). This large country house has been in existence since at least the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century but seems to have been substantially re-built in around 1830, to become what Lloyd describes as a “*rambling pile, of no architectural cohesion*” (1986:p.65). It was mostly demolished after 1945, but the house on the site now incorporates part of the earlier building.

The gardens and park (PRN 49730) which were laid out around the house are still in fair condition, and the entire land holding is included within the grounds. These are unusual since they clearly show development from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. On the tithe map (1841, Llandeilo-Fawr parish), the only garden feature clearly depicted is the walled garden (PRN 49726) just northeast of the main house. The parkland is cut by a road (PRN 49711), and south of the road were a number of smaller fields. By 1887, when the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map was produced, substantial landscaping had produced a more formal ‘park’. The road was removed (though parts of it survive to this day as an earthwork or a footpath) and a new, curving driveway established (PRN 49709) which ran up the west side of the park, through a wooded area and into a carriage sweep on the south side of the house. This tree-flanked driveway is still a prominent feature in the park.

The wooded area immediately surrounding the house (especially to the north and east) is seen on the 1887 map as being criss-crossed with a number of paths and walkways, and an area of lawn dotted with trees was laid out immediately east of the walled garden. At this stage, the gardens seem to be quite simple and there is a clear delineation between ‘the gardens’ (the walled garden, woodland walks and lawn) and ‘the park’ (the more open surroundings, with a number of exotic specimen trees planted throughout the estate).

By the early 1900s the emphasis within the grounds was clearly shifting away from this more traditional layout, and towards the creation of pleasure grounds. A boating lake (PRN 49721) and boat house (PRN 49722) are the most obvious additions, and the wooded, garden area around the house was extended south to encompass these. More paths and walkways were put in place throughout this larger area, and a small grotto and well (PRN 49713) next to the stream are typical of the kind of garden features which would be expected to be encountered in this kind of ‘designed wilderness’. Further features – a geometric rose garden (PRN 49723), a dance hall (PRN 49729) and two pergolas, forming coverings above pathways (PRNs 49724 and 49725), are testimony to the continued development of the pleasure grounds during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By 1936, when the estate was sold, the sale particulars describe “*The Pleasure Grounds...They comprise wide sloping lawns studded with specimen trees, a beautiful hexagonal walled rose garden, flower beds, tennis lawn etc. falling away to the ornamental boating lake with its prettily wooded surroundings*” (1936:p.21)

From what remains today, it is remarkably easy to visualise the grounds as they were designed. All of the main features are still visible, though some are densely overgrown. The parkland south of the house is particularly noteworthy since it contains a large number of very mature specimen trees with a mixture of species from all over the world. The open aspect and character of the park has been successfully retained through its use only for grazing. In addition, much of the parkland is still surrounded by iron palings which contribute strongly to its character. These are in various states of repair – some are in good condition, others have been pushed over by cattle.

Of most concern is the wooded area around the house. This is now very overgrown, and although many of the paths are still visible they are not passable, so they are not used. The dense vegetation obscures features within the woodland –notably the pergolas and the dance hall.

Lower Lodge Farm itself is now disused and heavily overgrown, but it was clearly an integral part of the Glanbrydan Park estate. It is a small farmstead, roughly square-shaped, with buildings set loosely around a central yard. The house (PRN 49715), at the west end, is detached from the farm buildings, and the south side of the farmyard is defined by a long, lofted cowshed (PRN 49716). The east and north sides of the farmstead were defined by a further building (PRN 49717), which has now gone. An unusual range formed of old railway wagons (PRN 49719) and a stone dairy (PRN 49718) have taken its place. Although close to the main house, Lower Lodge Farm is well hidden. It is set into a slope, slightly downhill from the house, and is also screened by a belt of woodland. This ‘invisibility’ was probably a deliberately manufactured effect.

The landscaping which took place for the Glanbrydan Park estate has had a huge impact on what we see today. However, traces of much earlier land-use are also present – the Towy valley has long been an important routeway, and aerial photography has revealed glimpses of the Roman road which ran through the valley, and passed through Glanbrydan Park (PRN 33971). The emparking of this area may have helped to preserve buried archaeology associated with the road – the park has escaped intensive cultivation which often damages or destroys buried sites.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **PRN 49730: GARDENS; PARK**

Management recommendations for individual features are given under the relevant PRNs. However, several general management recommendations apply to the landscape as a whole. The park should continue to be used only for grazing. Ideally, a programme of planting a few young trees should be implemented; to ensure that the appearance and character of the park is maintained as the mature trees die off naturally, or are lost to high winds. Young trees should be carefully selected to maintain the variety of species present in the park already.

The wholesale repair or replacement of the iron palings is not possible within Tir Gofal. However, the fallen sections should be re-erected wherever possible, and vulnerable parts (where the palings have been knocked over before, or where the bases are not sound) could be protected by fencing just in front of them, to prevent cattle from rubbing against them. This supplementary fencing should be as unobtrusive as possible – post and wire or post and rail. Sheep netting should not be used unless really necessary.

The woodland around the house also requires attention. Thinning and managing these woods would make a very real contribution to the restoration of the character of the gardens.

Consideration should be given to re-instating the paths through the woods as part of this process – especially those which are still visible, but are choked with brambles. Great care should be taken that the plant supports for the two walkways (PRNs 49724 and 49725) are not damaged during this process. If the paths are to be reinstated, then it may be possible to re-plant these supports with climbing plants, restoring the impression of a covered walkway.

Another consideration should be the relative density of trees within the woodland – historic maps show the area east of the walled garden to be a lawn dotted with trees with a peripheral path, while the rest of the area was more densely planted. In the long term, reducing the tree-cover in that area would also help to restore the character of the gardens.

Sympathetic management of the woods and the park will make a real difference to this landscape, and will help to ensure the long-term survival of these carefully laid out estate grounds.

### **PRN 49709: DRIVEWAY**

The driveway should be maintained in an open and passable condition. The iron palings should be preserved, as should the trees which line the drive. In order to maintain the character of the drive, it is recommended that some of the younger trees and saplings (which have sprung up between the mature specimens) should be removed. This would help to restore a more even spacing, in keeping with what is seen on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

### **PRN 49721: BOATING LAKE**

Ideally, the lake would be restored to hold water again. However, previous attempts have proved problematic, and although any further restoration works would be very welcome, they would also need to be carefully designed. Please contact Cambria Archaeology if it is being considered.

The interior of the lake should not be allowed to become substantially overgrown. Tree growth within the lake will dry out much of the water, and will contribute to the feature becoming invisible – through a gradual process of infilling (drying out of the silt, and accumulation of leaf mould etc.) and through screening by the vegetation itself. Saplings and new growth within the

lake area should ideally be cut back regularly, along with any scrub growth, and the cuttings should be removed from the site.

The woodland around the edge of the lake should be managed to ensure that it remains within the original compartment and does not spread out into the park. The undergrowth may also need to be controlled in order to ensure that the wood does not become impenetrable, and that access to the lake remains possible.

### **PRN 49723: ROSE GARDEN**

Scrub clearance and a programme of scrub control for the future is strongly recommended within the rose garden. Any clearance should be carried out with care – ideally by hand – since it is likely that traces of internal features survive within the garden. These may include beds and pathways as well as some kind of central feature – maybe a pond or fountain. Scrub should therefore be cut off to ground level and removed, and as little ground disturbance as possible should occur within the garden. Future scrub control should be carried out regularly, in a similar manner.

Restoration of this feature is also something which could be considered. The ‘hard’ landscaping – walls and steps – all seems to be in good condition, and if paths or beds do survive underneath the scrub then they would provide information about the original lay-out. Please contact Cambria Archaeology if this option is being considered.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	13385	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN67002618
<b>Site Type</b>	MILITARY BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### Description

A rectangular earthwork seen on aerial photographs, and apparently comprising the footings of a military building. The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the grounds of Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197) were used by marines during WWII.

The site was not visited on this occasion.

### Recommendations

No ground intrusive activities should take place in this area.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	18197	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66762645
<b>Site Type</b>	MAJOR DWELLING	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A large country house, in existence since at least the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Francis Jones comments that “*According to the Edwinsford pedigree book, William Prydderch lived there in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century*”. The estate later passed to the Wozencroft family and, in 1808, it was known as “*a house called Llanbrydan, or Wozencroft’s House*” (1986:p.74).

It seems to have been substantially re-built in around 1830, to become what Lloyd describes as a “*rambling pile, of no architectural cohesion*” (1986:p.65).

In 1936 the estate was sold, and the sale particulars give a good description of the house, being “*of moderate size and of attractive elevation...surrounded by undulating pastoral farms, attractive plantations of timber, adequate cottages and exceedingly attractive grounds and gardens*” (1936:p.2). The mansion itself apparently consisted principally of 4 reception rooms, 20 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms and a winter garden. It was constructed of brick with a stuccoed exterior and was slate roofed.

It was mostly demolished after 1945, but the house on the site now incorporates part of the earlier building.

Glanbrydan Park house is associated with fine gardens and parkland (PRN 49730) including a walled garden (PRN 47926), ornamental boating lake (PRN 49721) and a large number of fine specimen trees.

### Recommendations

The current house is inhabited as a private dwelling and is therefore outside the remit of the Tir Gofal scheme. No management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	33971	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66632588
<b>Site Type</b>	ROMAN ROAD?	<b>Period</b>	ROMAN		

### Description

The possible line of the Roman Road between Llandeilo and Llandovery. The road was identified clearly on aerial photographs of the field northwest of Down Farm, where the ditches either side of the road show up as clear cropmarks (James,H:1991:p.67). The part of the road within Glanbrydan Park is less clear, but would be a logical continuation of the line of the road.

### Recommendations

There is potential for the survival of buried archaeology associated with the Roman road. No ground intrusive activities should take place within 10m of the area marked on the attached map, and tree-planting should be avoided within the area shown.

**Site Category** D



**Plate 1** *The ditches either side of the Roman road (arrowed) picked up as cropmarks in the fields next to Down Farm.*

Mm AP Oblique/DAT/James,T/1983/120-945.3/SN6625

<b>PRN</b>	49708	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66642637
<b>Site Type</b>	BRIDGE	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A stone bridge at the north end of a tree-lined driveway (PRN 49709) which carries the drive over a stream and into the wooded area surrounding Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). The bridge parapet is topped with ornamental dressed stone, but is badly damaged. A large area of the east side has been broken down – the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that this happened during WWII, when marines were stationed in the grounds of Glanbrydan Park.

To the west, the bridge gives views over an open area of the stream valley. The remains of ornamental planting are still seen in the copious rhododendron found in this area.

#### **Recommendations**

Ideally, the bridge parapets would be re-built, to restore this feature to its original appearance. If no restoration is possible, then it should be ensured that no further damage occurs. Building stone should not be removed from the site.

**Site Category** B

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<b>PRN</b>	49709	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66712613
<b>Site Type</b>	DRIVEWAY	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A tree-lined driveway, curving round to approach Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197) from the west. The trees that line this drive are mature but appear to be younger than many other trees in the park.

On the west side, the driveway is flanked by iron palings which are generally in good condition.

### Recommendations

The driveway should be maintained in an open and passable condition. The iron palings should be preserved, as should the trees which line the drive. In order to maintain the character of the drive, it is recommended that some of the younger trees and saplings (which have sprung up between the mature specimens) should be removed. This would help to restore a more even spacing, in keeping with what is seen on the early Ordnance Survey maps.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 2** *The driveway along the western edge of Glanbrydan Park. Gaps between the mature trees have become partially infilled with saplings and young tree growth.*

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<b>PRN</b>	49710	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66712632
<b>Site Type</b>	AVENUE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A straight avenue or track marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map (1907) this feature is seen as a tree-lined avenue, approaching Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197) from the southwest.

No trace of the avenue was seen on the ground.

#### **Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply. However, this feature runs through Glanbrydan Park gardens (PRN 49730) so the general recommendations for the management of parkland apply.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	49711	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66832629
<b>Site Type</b>	TRACKWAY	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

#### **Description**

A sunken trackway running across the grounds of Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). The feature is turf-covered but, in places, a cobbled surface can be seen under the turf. This track or road is of unknown age. It is depicted as a road on the tithe map (1841, Llandeilo-Fawr parish), and it would have linked Down Farm (southwest of Glanbrydan) to Lower Lodge Farm (PRN 49714). Although it is not on the later Ordnance Survey maps as a road, part of this route survives into the present day as a footpath.

The road was probably lost when the gardens and parkland (PRN 49730) were laid out for Glanbrydan Park house in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and a new driveway (PRN 49709) was laid along the west edge of the park.

It has long been supposed that the route of a Roman road (PRN 33971) passes through the valley but its precise location is not known. The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that local knowledge suggests that this track is part of the line of the Roman road.

#### **Recommendations**

To avoid damaging the cobbled surface of the road, vehicles should avoid using this route when the ground is wet. No ground intrusive activities should take place along the length of the road.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49712	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66882634
<b>Site Type</b>	BRIDGE	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

A small stone bridge with a single arch spanning a stream. A brick parapet was probably added later – perhaps in around 1830 when Lower Lodge Farm (PRN 49714) was substantially altered and added to in brick.

### **Recommendations**

The bridge is in a good stable condition. Maintain as existing.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 3** Bridge on Glanbrydan Park estate. The parapet is brick and was probably added after the original construction of the bridge.

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<b>PRN</b>	49713	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66852634
<b>Site Type</b>	WELL; GROTTO	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL?; MODERN		

### **Description**

A small well, which has been formed into an ornamental grotto set in woodland next to a stream. This feature is part of the gardens (PRN 49730) at Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). It was constructed between 1887 and 1907, probably at the same time as the boating lake and boat house (PRNs 47921 and 47922).

The well itself is contained within a small portico made of dressed stone, with two decoratively carved columns supporting a simple lintel. The lintel stone is inscribed in Welsh with part of psalm 104 (v.10) – the King James version of the bible gives this part of the verse as: “*He sendeth the springs into the valleys*”.

The faced stone of the well forms a strong contrast with the small grotto into which it is set – the grotto has been built in a rustic style, with walls of uncoursed stone rubble. An alcove next to the well probably held a seat. The grotto is approached from the east via a path which is lightly terraced into the stream bank, and picked out by small retaining walls on either side, built of the same rustic style stonework as the grotto. Where the stream has undercut parts of the path, some of the stonework is now gone.

A large piece of decorated metal – maybe a gate? – lies semi-submerged in the stream just by the grotto. It seems likely that this was associated with the site, but its nature is not clear.

The site is in a stable condition, but access is becoming difficult due to the density of the woodland and vegetation surrounding it.

### **Recommendations**

It should be ensured that vegetation is not allowed to colonise the grotto itself. Occasional checks should be made of trees which overhang the site, and any loose branches should be removed, since they would cause considerable damage if they fell. Ideally, the path (which led from the bridge (PRN 49712) just west of Lower Lodge Farm (PRN 49714) down to the grotto) should be cleared, and should be maintained in an open state.

It should be ensured that any clearance, or other woodland management, does not cause damage to the stonework of the site or the path.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 4 (above)** *Grotto containing a well, set amongst a series of woodland walks laid out around 1900.*

**Plate 5 (below)** *Close up of the well.*



<b>PRN</b>	49714	<b>Site Name</b>	LOWER LODGE FARM	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66912641
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A small farmstead, roughly square-shaped, with buildings set loosely around a central yard. The house (PRN 49715), at the west end, is detached from the farm buildings. It was originally single storey, but a second floor was later added in red brick. A datestone of 1830 may refer to the addition of this upper storey.

The south side of the farmyard is defined by a long, lofted cowshed (PRN 49716) which, along with the house, was marked on the 1841 parish tithe map. By 1887 the east and north sides of the farmstead were defined by a further building (PRN 49717), which has now gone. An unusual range formed of old railway wagons (PRN 49719) and a stone dairy (PRN 49718) have taken its place.

Lower Lodge Farm was clearly part of the Glanbrydan Park estate and both the house and the cowshed are very well built in evenly coursed, narrow pieces of stone. The farm may have acted as a home farm for Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). It is set close to the house, within the carefully designed gardens and parkland (PRN 49730). However, the farm is largely invisible from the main house, being set into a slope, slightly downhill from the house, and also being screened by a belt of woodland. This 'invisibility' was probably a deliberately manufactured effect.

The farmyard is very overgrown, and the buildings are currently either used for storage or are disused. However, the cowshed, house and dairy all seem to be in a stable condition, and the roofs appear to be sound.

### Recommendations

Lower Lodge Farm forms a coherent 'unit' and the buildings are still basically sound. The best management for the farm would be to bring it back into use, and this would help to ensure a long term future for the buildings.

In the short term, some clearance of undergrowth and vegetation from the farmyard should be undertaken in order to avoid the site becoming completely inaccessible. This will also help to avoid ivy and other climbing plants from getting a foothold on the buildings.

See also recommendations for individual buildings.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	49715	<b>Site Name</b>	LOWER LODGE FARM	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66902640
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMHOUSE	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

### Description

An abandoned farmhouse, part of Lower Lodge Farm (PRN 49714).

The house is roughly cruciform in plan and the ground floor is built of evenly coursed narrow blocks of stone, with contrasting ashlar quoins. The second floor is of brick, but is now covered with cement render. The landowner says that the house was originally only one storey, and the second floor was a later addition. A datestone of 1830 on the southwest elevation probably refers to the upper storey.

The house is in a stable condition, but is unused. There is now no glass in the windows, but the roof appears watertight, and there are no other obvious problems.

The landowner commented that there is some local speculation about the origins of the building. It lies along the line of a roadway (PRN 49711) which may have early (Roman?) origins. It also forms a rough alignment with the ecclesiastical sites of Capel yr Ywen (PRN 4016) to the northeast and Capel Issa (PRN 876) to the southwest. It has been suggested, therefore, that the cruciform plan of the house may indicate that it originated as a religious building.

### Recommendations

The best way to ensure the long-term preservation of this building would be to bring it back into use, and this would be the ideal management. In the interim, the building should be maintained in a stable condition, using materials and techniques which match the original construction.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 6** Lower Lodge Farmhouse. The upper storey has a datestone of 1830.

<b>PRN</b>	49716	<b>Site Name</b>	LOWER LODGE FARM	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66922641
<b>Site Type</b>	COWSHED	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

### Description

Cowshed, part of Lower Lodge Farm (PRN 49714).

This building forms the southern edge of the farmstead. It is a long, lofted building, constructed of evenly coursed, narrow pieces of stone. The roof is slate, with a dormer window on the south side.

There are a number of openings – both doors and windows – in each elevation and the treatment of the openings varies: stone relieving arches above the lintels, brick surrounds and concrete lintels and sills are all seen. These presumably reflect alterations to the building which have taken place at different times. The building is seen on the tithe map (1841, Llandeilo-Fawr parish) and the stonework suggests that it may be contemporary with the farmhouse (PRN 49715).

The building is currently in good condition, and the roof appears sound. Part of the building is used for storage whilst other parts are unused.

### Recommendations

The best way to ensure the long-term preservation of this building would be to bring it back into use, and this would be the ideal management. In the interim, the building should be maintained in a stable condition, using materials and techniques which match the original construction.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 7** *The cowshed at Lower Lodge Farm.*

<b>PRN</b>	49717	<b>Site Name</b>	LOWER LODGE FARM	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66922643
<b>Site Type</b>	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

An agricultural building seen on historic maps, part of Lower Lodge farmstead (PRN 49714). This building is now gone, but was depicted on the 1887 and 1907 Ordnance Survey maps. It was 'L' shaped, and butted up at a 90° angle against the east end of the cowshed. This effectively formed a single 'U' shaped range with the cowshed running along the south edge, and this building (PRN 49717) being the north and east parts of the range.

Although the building itself is now gone, the shape of it has been preserved in two newer buildings – a small dairy (PRN 49718) and an unusual range consisting of a number of disused railway carriages formed into a single building (PRN 49719).

#### **Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	49718	<b>Site Name</b>	LOWER LODGE FARM	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66912642
<b>Site Type</b>	DAIRY?	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

#### **Description**

A small stone building, apparently used for the storage of milk, part of Lower Lodge Farmstead (PRN 49714).

This building is constructed of uncoursed stone blocks with thick joints between them. It is very distinct from the other stone buildings on the yard (PRNs 49715 and 49716) and is of a later date. A narrow door leads into the southeast elevation, and a small window in the southwest is barred with a metal frame.

The building is unused, and is becoming overgrown.

#### **Recommendations**

The best way to ensure the long-term preservation of this building would be to bring it back into use, and this would be the ideal management. In the interim, the vegetation which is starting to colonise the rear wall and part of the roof should be cut back and treated to prevent re-growth. It should be ensured that any future repairs should match the building's original construction, and should maintain the differences between this building and the other extant stone buildings (PRNs 49715 and 49716)

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49719	<b>Site Name</b>	LOWER LODGE FARM	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66922643
<b>Site Type</b>	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

#### **Description**

A range forming the north and east edges of Lower Lodge farmstead (PRN 49714).

The range is 'L' shaped, and butts up at a 90° angle against the east end of the cowshed (PRN 49716). It has the same 'footprint' as an earlier building (PRN 49717) which was depicted on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps, but is now gone.

This part of the farm is unusual, since it is constructed of a variety of materials. At the end which abuts the cowshed, brick, stone and breeze-block have all been used to make cow stalls. Concrete stall divisions and iron cattle drinkers are still in place. The rest of the range is formed of a number of disused railway wagons. The wagons have all had hay-racks added into them, and are either open fronted or have a large single door.

The railway wagons are now in poor condition. They are heavily overgrown, and are mostly inaccessible. The roofs are starting to lift, and the wooden panels which form the sides of the wagons are generally rotting.

The re-use of railway wagons for farm buildings and animal shelters is quite common, but it is unusual to see this number of railway wagons effectively forming a single agricultural range.

#### **Recommendations**

The vegetation which is obscuring the wagons should be cut back, and this part of the farmstead made accessible again. Although repair and restoration of the railway wagons is not really practical or feasible, it should be recognised that they are an integral part of the character of the farmyard, and are an unusual feature in their own right. The wagons should not be removed or demolished.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49720	<b>Site Name</b>	NORTH LODGE	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66982643
<b>Site Type</b>	LODGE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A lodge on the driveway up to Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197), seen on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map. The lodge is inhabited as a private dwelling and therefore falls outside the Tir Gofal agreement.

#### **Recommendations**

The lodge is outside the remit of the Tir Gofal scheme, so no management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	49721	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66982629
<b>Site Type</b>	BOATING LAKE	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### **Description**

A boating lake with a small island at the south end, part of the grounds (PRN 49730) around Glanbyrdan Park house (PRN 18197). The lake was constructed sometime between 1887 and 1907, when the gardens were partially remodelled to become more of a pleasure ground. The lake is still clearly visible today, as is the island. It is fed by a stream leading into the top (northwest) corner, and some standing water remains in the south portion of the lake, especially around the island. The rest of the area is marshy and wet, and very overgrown in some parts. At the south end of the lake the 1907 map records a boathouse (PRN 49722) which is now gone, but the remains of a small quay survive. The quay is a simple rectangular cutting protruding from the lake edge, the shape of which is clearly visible although it is partially silted up. The lake is set within a wooded 'compartment' of the garden, defined by iron palings which match those used throughout the grounds. Some areas around its edge are also very overgrown. The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that they had attempted in the past to restore the lake. However, in heavy rains the lake would flood, and controlling drainage was a problem since an effective sluice mechanism could not be found.

### **Recommendations**

Ideally, the lake would be restored to hold water again. However, previous attempts have proved problematic, and although any further restoration works would be very welcome, they would also need to be carefully designed. Please contact Cambria Archaeology if it is being considered. The interior of the lake should not be allowed to become substantially overgrown. Tree growth within the lake will dry out much of the water, and will contribute to the feature becoming invisible – through a gradual process of infilling (drying out of the silt, and accumulation of leaf mould etc.) and through screening by the vegetation itself. Saplings and new growth within the lake area should ideally be cut back regularly, along with any scrub growth, and the cuttings should be removed from the site.

The woodland around the edge of the lake should be managed to ensure that it remains within the original compartment and does not spread out into the park. The undergrowth may also need to be controlled in order to ensure that the wood does not become impenetrable, and that access to the lake remains possible.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 8 (above)** *The island at the south end of the boating lake.*

**Plate 9 (below)** *Parkland south of Glanbrydan Park house. The boating lake is in the trees on the left of the picture, and is largely hidden from view by undergrowth.*



<b>PRN</b>	49722	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66952634
<b>Site Type</b>	BOAT HOUSE	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### Description

A boat house marked on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map at the north end of a boating lake (PRN 49721). The boat house is now gone, but a postcard in the possession of the landowner shows that it was a small wooden building. The remains of a quay survive, which would have been associated with the boathouse.

### Recommendations

No ground intrusive activities should be carried out in the location of the boat house. The quay should not be disturbed or damaged.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	49723	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66872645
<b>Site Type</b>	ROSE GARDEN	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### Description

An octagonal rose garden, set within Glanbrydan Park grounds (PRN 49730). The garden is slightly sunken and surrounded by low, red-brick walls. An entrance at the south side consists of two low pillars topped with decorative stone balls. A flight of steps leads down into the garden. There is another, simpler entrance at the north side which is approached by a path leading from the woodland surrounding the house (PRN 18197). A simple iron pergola (PRN 49724) survives, marking the path. This would have been covered with climbing plants, creating the effect of a covered walkway leading into the rose garden. The precise date of the rose garden is not known, but it is somewhere between 1907 and 1936 – it is not on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, but is mentioned in the sale particulars of the house in 1936.

The walls of the garden are currently in a stable condition, but the interior of the garden is severely overgrown and inaccessible.

### Recommendations

Scrub clearance and a programme of scrub control for the future is strongly recommended within the rose garden. Any clearance should be carried out with care – ideally by hand – since it is likely that traces of internal features survive within the garden. These may include beds and pathways as well as some kind of central feature – maybe a pond or fountain. Scrub should therefore be cut off to ground level and removed, and as little ground disturbance as possible should occur within the garden. Future scrub control should be carried out regularly, in a similar manner.

Restoration of this feature is also something which could be considered. The ‘hard’ landscaping – walls and steps – all seems to be in good condition, and if paths or beds do survive underneath the scrub then they would provide information about the original lay-out. Please contact Cambria Archaeology if this option is being considered.

**Site Category** B

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<b>PRN</b>	49724	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66862647
<b>Site Type</b>	PERGOLA	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### Description

A series of metal arches, which would provide support for climbing plants forming a walkway into the rose garden (PRN 47923). The path leads off from the woodland which surrounds Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197) and is now considerably overgrown. The metal arches are still in place and appear to be stable, but are not used.

The pergola is probably contemporary with the rose garden.

### Recommendations

These metal arches are valuable evidence for the layout of the gardens, and should be retained. It should be ensured that no damage is caused to this feature during management of the woodland around the house. Ideally, some of the paths through the wood would be re-opened, and the pergola could be brought back into use.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 10** *Metal supports for climbing plants which would have formed a covered walkway leading to the rose garden.*

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<b>PRN</b>	49725	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66822647
<b>Site Type</b>	PERGOLA	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### **Description**

A series of metal supports for climbing plants, forming a walkway leading through the woodland surrounding Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). The path probably led round to the dance hall (PRN 49729) which was set just apart from the house.

The metal supports are still in place and appear to be stable, but are not used.

### **Recommendations**

These metal supports are valuable evidence for the layout of the gardens, and should be retained. It should be ensured that no damage is caused to this feature during management of the woodland around the house. Ideally, some of the paths through the wood would be re-opened, and the pergola could be brought back into use.

**Site Category** B

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<b>PRN</b>	49726	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66832652
<b>Site Type</b>	WALLED GARDEN	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A substantial walled garden just northeast of Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197). The garden is seen on the tithe map (1841, Llandeilo-Fawr parish) and on later maps. The 1887 map shows the garden divided into quarters by paths leading to a small circular feature in the centre. A small building is depicted inside the south wall (PRN 49728), and another in the northeast corner. Further buildings were added inside the garden between 1887 and 1907, and in 1936 the walled garden was described in the sale particulars of the estate as being a “... *well stocked with Fruit Trees. Heated Forcing House. Large Heated Vinery. Heated Peach House. Potting Shed etc.*” (1936:p.21).

Detailed inspection of the garden was not possible, as the interior is now very overgrown and largely impenetrable. However, battens for fruit trees seem to remain on the north and east walls, along with the ruins of what appear to be cold frames along the bases of these walls. The stone garden walls themselves are generally in fair condition, although part of the south wall has collapsed and much of the walling is ivy covered.

### Recommendations

Restoration or substantial repair of this garden would be a major undertaking, and although it would be very welcome, it probably would not be very practical!

In the short term, all that can be hoped for is to slow the rate of decay, and to prevent any activities which would actually be damaging to the garden. The worst of the ivy should be removed from the external walls – the vegetation should be cut flush with the wall and treated to prevent re-growth. This may need to be carried out in conjunction with re-pointing the walls. Ideally, the scrub growth inside the garden, and the vegetation on the interior walls should also be cut back. Scrub clearance should be carried out with care, ensuring that the ground surface is disturbed as little as possible in order to aid the preservation of any beds, paths or other garden features which still survive. Vegetation clearance off the interior walls should ensure that battens and cold frames are not damaged or removed. It would also help to reveal the footings of any further buildings.

If this work is to be carried out, then it should be ensured that the scrub is not allowed to re-colonise. Light grazing by sheep would be the most practical way to achieve this. Cattle should not be used as they may damage wall footings and internal features.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	49727	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66832649
<b>Site Type</b>	GARDEN BUILDING; GLASSHOUSE?	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

The ruins of a garden building just outside the walled garden (PRN 47926). The ruins consist of low brick walls and the remains of metal struts which appear to have supported a greenhouse style glass structure.

The whole building is overgrown and largely inaccessible.

#### **Recommendations**

It should be ensured that no damage is caused to this feature during management of the woodland around the house. Ideally, the vegetation around the building would also be cut off at ground level and removed.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	49728	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66832650
<b>Site Type</b>	GARDEN BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A ruined building set inside the walled garden (PRN 47926), against the south wall. The stone walls now stand around 1.3m tall, and contain the remains of wooden window frames. There seems to be no evidence for a chimney or flue, so it is likely that this building was a potting shed since many other buildings associated with kitchen gardens were heated.

The ruin is very overgrown, and is largely inaccessible.

#### **Recommendations**

No ground intrusive activities should take place in or around this building. Ideally, the vegetation engulfing it would also be cut off at ground level and removed.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	49729	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66782646
<b>Site Type</b>	DANCE HALL	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### Description

A partially derelict wooden dance hall set in a wooded area of the gardens (PRN 49730) associated with Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197).

The building is just to the northeast of the main house, and measures around 16m x 8m. It is constructed of timber, which has been varnished inside. It is not clear what treatments were applied to the outside of the building.

Internally, the hall is not subdivided and is simply finished with square windows and large doors at the east end. It would probably have been approached either by the main path from the house, or by a smaller path leading through the woodland. This is still marked by a metal pergola (PRN 49725) which would have supported climbing plants and made the path into a covered walkway. The whole building is now in a densely overgrown area of woodland, and is almost wholly inaccessible. Although the walls and roof appear to be basically sound, the windows are now gone, and some of the timber inside may be rotten. The floor has also rotted through in places, revealing that it had been constructed as a sprung floor.

The building has been used as a store for wood and furniture.

Since they were separated from the main house, dance halls like this were sometimes used to host dances for workers and tenants of the estate. This is an unusual survival, and is an integral part of the gardens surrounding Glanbrydan Park house. It reflects the shift of emphasis within the gardens (PRN 49730) – from the more formal walled garden (PRN 49726), lawns and parkland of the 19<sup>th</sup> century garden through to the informal pleasure ground of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, with its boating lake (PRN 49721), rose garden (PRN 49723) and grotto (PRN 49713).

### Recommendations

The management plan for the woodland around the dance hall should incorporate clearance of some of the trees and vegetation from around this building in order to allow it to become accessible and visible once again. Wood treatment on the outside of the building should help it to remain waterproof and stable, and will allow its continued use for storage. Care should be taken that any treatment applied does not significantly alter the appearance of the building.

**Site Category** B

<b>PRN</b>	49730	<b>Site Name</b>	GLANBRYDAN PARK	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN66852640
<b>Site Type</b>	GARDEN; PARK	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL: MODERN		

### Description

The gardens and parkland associated with Glanbrydan Park house (PRN 18197).

These grounds are unusual since they clearly show development from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They occupy an area of gentle slopes on the north side of the Towy Valley, and give panoramic views across the river and into the Brecon Beacons.

On the tithe map (1841, Llandeilo-Fawr parish), the only garden feature clearly depicted is the walled garden (PRN 49726) just northeast of the main house. The parkland is cut by a road (PRN 49711), and south of the road were a number of smaller fields. By 1887, when the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map was produced, there had been a number of changes and substantial landscaping had produced a more formal 'park'. The road was removed (though parts of it survive to this day as an earthwork or a footpath) and a new, sweeping driveway established (PRN 49709) which ran up the west side of the park, through a wooded area and into a carriage sweep on the south side of the house. This tree-flanked driveway is still a prominent feature in the park.

The area immediately surrounding the house (especially to the north and east) is seen on the 1887 map as being quite heavily wooded and criss-crossed with a number of paths and walkways, whilst an area of lawn studded with trees was laid out immediately east of the walled garden. At this stage, the gardens seem to be quite simple and there is a clear delineation between 'the gardens' (the walled garden, woodland walks and lawn) and 'the park' (the more open surroundings, with a number of exotic specimen trees planted throughout the estate).

By 1907, however, the emphasis within the grounds was clearly shifting away from this more traditional layout, and towards the creation of pleasure grounds. A boating lake (PRN 49721) and boat house (PRN 49722) are the most obvious additions, and the wooded, garden area around the house was extended south to encompass these. More paths and walkways were put in place throughout this larger area, and a small grotto and well (PRN 49713) next to the stream are typical of the kind of garden features which would be expected to be encountered in this kind of 'designed wilderness'. Further features – a geometric rose garden (PRN 49723), a dance hall (PRN 49729) and two pergolas, forming coverings above pathways (PRNs 49724 and 49725), are testimony to the continued development of the pleasure grounds during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By 1936, when the estate was sold, the sale particulars describe "*The Pleasure Grounds...They comprise wide sloping lawns studded with specimen trees, a beautiful hexagonal walled rose garden, flower beds, tennis lawn etc. falling away to the ornamental boating lake with its prettily wooded surroundings*" (1936:p.21)

From what remains today, it is remarkably easy to visualise the grounds as they were designed. All of the main features are still visible, though some are densely overgrown. The parkland south of the house is particularly noteworthy since it contains a large number of very mature specimen trees with a mixture of species from all over the world. The open aspect and character of the park has been successfully retained through its use only for grazing. In addition, much of the parkland is still surrounded by iron palings which contribute strongly to its character. These are in various

states of repair – some are in good condition, others have been pushed over by cattle. Of most concern is the wooded area around the house. This is now very overgrown, and although many of the paths are still visible they are not passable, so they are not used. The dense vegetation obscures features within the woodland –notably the pergolas and the dance hall.

### **Recommendations**

Management recommendations for individual features are given under the relevant PRNs.

The park should continue to be used only for grazing. Ideally, a programme of planting a few young trees should be implemented; to ensure that the appearance and character of the park is maintained as the mature trees die off naturally, or are lost to high winds. Young trees should be carefully selected to maintain the variety of species present in the park already.

The wholesale repair or replacement of the iron palings is not possible within Tir Gofal.

However, the fallen sections should be re-erected wherever possible, and vulnerable parts (where the palings have been knocked over before, or where the bases are not sound) could be protected by fencing just in front of them, to prevent cattle from rubbing against them. This supplementary fencing should be as unobtrusive as possible – post and wire or post and rail. Sheep netting should not be used unless really necessary.

The woodland around the house also requires attention. Thinning and managing these woods would make a very real contribution to the restoration of the character of the gardens.

Consideration should be given to re-instating the paths through the woods as part of this process – especially those which are still visible, but are choked with brambles. Great care should be taken that the plant supports for the two walkways (PRNs 49724 and 49725) are not damaged during this process. If the paths are to be reinstated, then it may be possible to re-plant these supports with climbing plants, restoring the impression of a covered walkway.

Another consideration should be the relative density of trees within the woodland – historic maps show the area east of the walled garden to be a lawn dotted with trees with a peripheral path, while the rest of the area was more densely planted. In the long term, reducing the tree-cover in that area would also help to restore the character of the gardens.

Sympathetic management of the woods and the park will make a real difference to this landscape, and will help to ensure the long-term survival of these carefully laid out estate grounds.

**Site Category B**



**Plate 11 (above)** *View across the parkland near the house, showing a number of mature specimen trees.*

**Plate 12 (below)** *Surviving iron palings and gates give a distinctive character to the grounds surrounding Glanbrydan Park house.*



## **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.

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### Lower Lodge Farm

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation




Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3871

Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN48442



National Grid Reference SN66912640

-  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
-  Parkland associated with Glanbrydan Park house

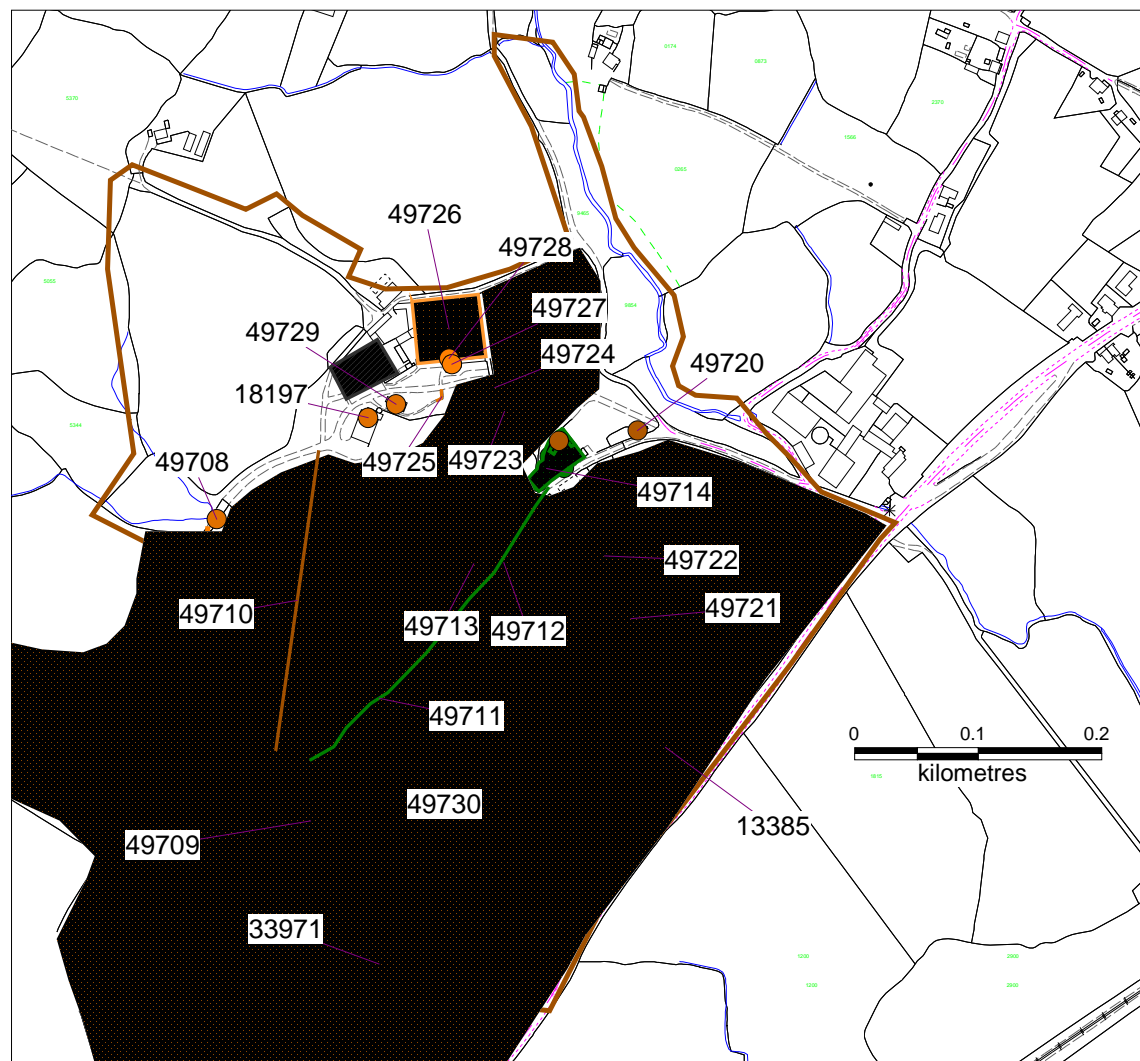
### Site Category C - Local Importance

-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance



### Site Category D – Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition
-  Area excluded from this Tir Gofal application


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Lower Lodge Farmstead and Glanbrydan Gardens  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3871  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN48442  
 National Grid Reference SN66862647


 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**

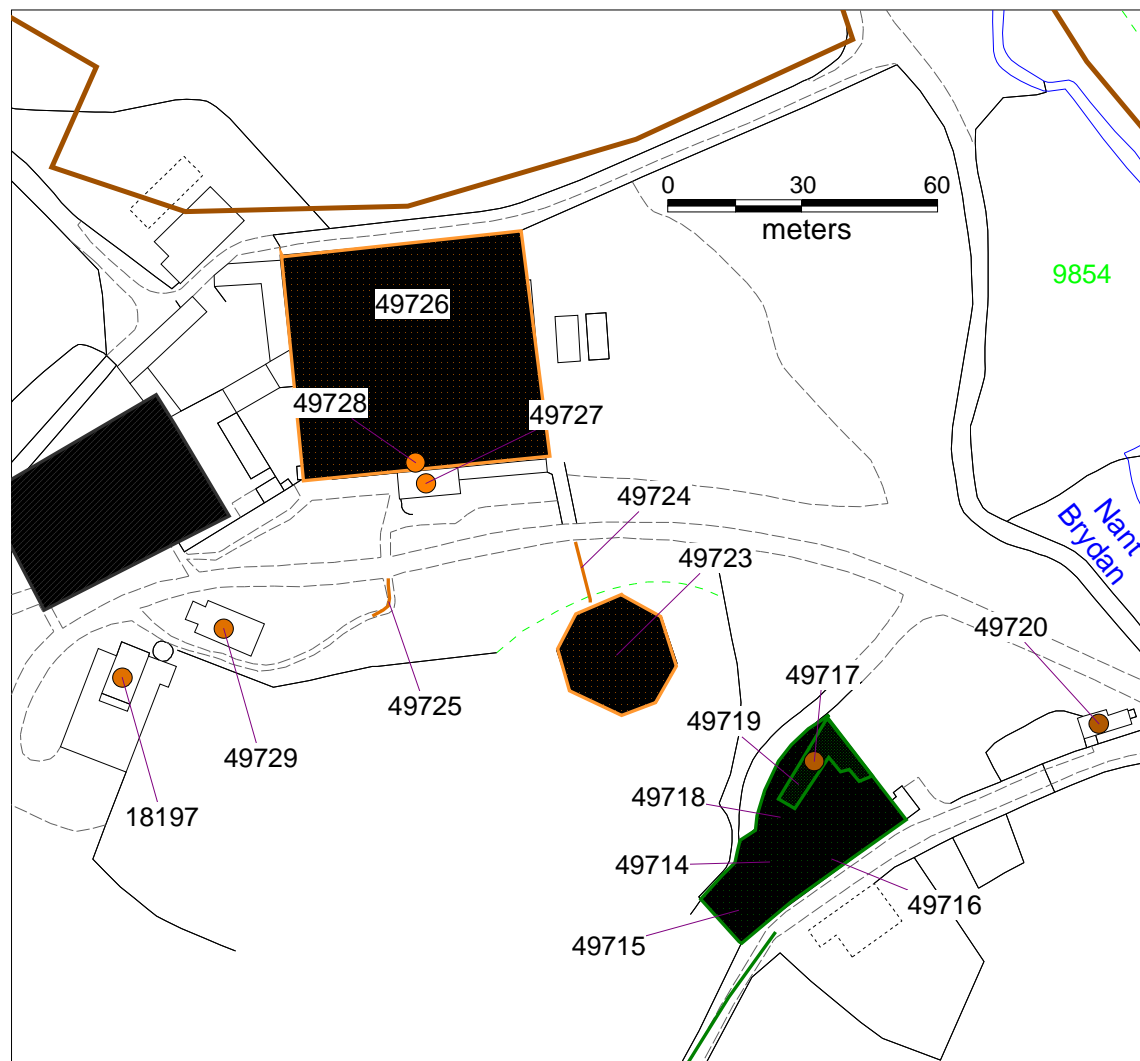
 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

**Site Category D – Unknown Importance**

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
 no physical definition

 Area excluded from this Tir Gofal application

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**LOWER LODGE FARM  
W/12/3871**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/128**

**November 2003**

This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

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