

Cwmgelli-fach W/12/3986

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



The remains Cwmgelliuchaf farmstead Prn 48768

Report No. 2004/43

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2004/43
PROJECT RECORD NO. 48485

March 2004

Cwmgelli-fach
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 (Prn 48761)

Cwmgelli-fach farm lies within the community of Llanfynydd, almost a kilometre to the southwest of the village itself. The farm was visited by Cambria Archaeology on the 17th March 2004.

The farm consists of a single holding of about 62 hectares in area and encompasses both sides of a valley which lies to the south of Llanfynydd mountain. The owner is involved in game keeping and runs a training college for keepers, therefore the farm is managed to provide habitats for game and wildlife.

The landscape pattern has changed little from the 19th century, there has been a little boundary loss, but largely the field pattern has remained the same. The boundaries themselves are largely earthen banks lined with hedges on top.

The three main areas of archaeological interest are the three farmsteads which lie on the holding. Two of these are still occupied, Cwmgelli-fach and Cwmgelli-fawr. A third, Cwmgelli-uchaf, which lies at the head of the valley, has not been occupied in over half a century and is now ruinous. All three farmsteads are marked on the Old Series Ordnance Survey (1831) suggesting that they were all well established at this point. The tithe appointment shows that Cwmgelli-fach and Cwmgelli-fawr were both held by David Jones in 1841? and tenanted, and apparently formed part of the Pant-glas Hall estate. Cwmgelli-uchaf was also tenanted but owned by a JW Gwynne Hughes.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The main priority for this farm is the preservation of the historic integrity of the farmsteads themselves. The two occupied farms, Cwmgelli-fach and Cwmgelli-fawr are quite different in character, but each has buildings of considerable historic interest which show a development over the last two centuries.

CWMGELLI-FAWR COMBINATION FARM BUILDING Prn 48763

The owner has expressed an interest in the restoration of this barn in the future, although it is understood that it is not feasible at present. In the short term, therefore, it is advised that the ivy, which is growing extensively on the southern gable, is cut at ground level and the roots treated with a suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth. There are large structural cracks in the gable wall, and it would be advisable not to attempt to extract the ivy from the masonry until a programme of structural repairs and repointing can be directed at this sensitive area. The roof should also be monitored to ensure that it remains watertight and slates should be replaced where necessary.

In the longer term, professional advice should be sought to determine what structural repairs should be carried out on the gable end.

CWMGELLI-FACH PIGSTY Prn 48765

Maintenance to the pigsties would be a worthwhile undertaking to ensure their continued usefulness and survival.

In order to restore the building to a good condition the following works will need to be undertaken.

The roof should be repaired and slates should be refixed to make the structure watertight.

The yard wall needs to be consolidated. Works should endeavour to replicate the existing style of construction, in particular the use of red brick for the quoins, gate jambs and pier should be retained. The use of quartz in the rubble stone wall capping should also be copied; these elements are characteristic of the building and should be retained.

The gates to the yard and the doors will also need to be restored. Where possible these should be repaired in preference to replacement and any new doors and gates should copy the original design.

CWMGELLI-FACH BARN Prn 48766

It is hoped that through the scheme, the barn doors can be replaced / repaired. As with all works on traditional buildings there should be an emphasis on repairs to the original rather than replacement or renewal. Hence the stable door, which appears to be original, should be repaired, it should be possible to splice in a new piece of wood at the base of the door. In addition any original door furniture (hinges, latches) should be maintained or reused. New doors will have to be made up for the double entrance for the barn and these should be of a traditional design - like those that survive in the barn at Cwmgelli-fawr, Prn 48762.

CWMGELLI-UCHAF FARMSTEAD Prn 48768

The site of Cwmgelli-uchaf would benefit from the removal of some of the young saplings which pose a threat to the masonry remains of the building. The trees should be cut at ground level and the roots left in place and spot treated with a suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth. Care should be taken when felling and removing trees from the site to prevent damage to the remaining stone work.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	48762	Site Name	CWMGELLI-FAWR	Grid Reference	SN55052706
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The tithe map of Llanfynydd Parish, recorded in 1841, shows the farmstead of Cwmgelli-fawr consisting of an L-shaped range, and a parallel single short range to the south east, corresponding roughly to the layout of the current farmstead - although substantial modifications have since taken place. The farmhouse appears to have been remodelled in the third quarter of the 19th century, testified by the datestone of 1872 in the front wall. A more accurate representation of the layout of the farmstead as it is now is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, suggesting that the current layout was in place by this date.

Adjoining the farmhouse on the southeast gable is a one storey cow shed, now converted to an office. Opposite the farmhouse and cowshed is a large combination farm building (Prn 48763). These buildings comprise the historic core of the farmstead, but other later buildings are also of interest. To the northeast of the combination farm building (Prn 48763) are a number of corrugated iron buildings, including a shed and a couple of hay barns. A further cow shed, possibly a relic from the post war period, built in textured breeze block is located at the north end of the farmyard. These buildings all appear to be well maintained and form an interesting part of the history and development of the farmstead in the 20th century.

Recommendations

The management priority of the farmstead is the repair and maintenance of the combination farm building (Prn 48763) which is discussed in detail later. In more general terms the farmstead is in good condition and buildings all appear to be maintained in reasonably sound condition. This maintenance regime should be maintained and the buildings, even those from the twentieth century, should be retained if possible as they demonstrate a time depth to the farmstead.

Site Category B

PRN	48763	Site Name	CWMGELLI-FAWR	Grid Reference	SN55062706
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A long two-storey combination farm building occupies the eastern part of the farmstead. Although the tithe map indicates that a building occupied this position in the first half of the 19th century, the building itself exhibits stylistic similarities (such as the use of yellow brick around the openings) to those of the farmhouse, dated 1872, suggesting that the barn was substantially rebuilt or modified around this time. The building consists of a barn at the south end, indicated by opposing, almost full height, double barn doors. The middle section of the barn is occupied by stalls positioned across the building and accessed by a single doorway in the east and west elevations. A hay rack is situated along the northern wall. At the northern end of the barn is a former cart shed, the double doors have been partially blocked in. The central and northern section of the barn are lofted and access is gained by external steps at the north gable end and by a pitching window in the centre of eastern elevation.

The barn is in a reasonably sound condition at present, however there are threats to its stability posed by large cracks in the southern gable wall, which also has ivy growing extensively over it and the roof.

Recommendations

The owner has expressed an interest in the restoration of this barn in the future, although it is understood that it is not feasible at present. In the short term, therefore, it is advised that the ivy, which is growing extensively on the southern gable, is cut at ground level and the roots treated with a suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth. There are large structural cracks in the gable wall, and it would be advisable not to attempt to extract the ivy from the masonry until a programme of structural repairs and repointing can be directed at this sensitive area. The roof should also be monitored to ensure that it remains watertight and slates should be replaced where necessary.

In the longer term, professional advice should be sought to determine what structural repairs should be carried out on the gable end.

Site Category B



Prn 48763 – combination farm building at Cwmgelli-fawr farmstead

PRN	48764	Site Name	CWMGELLI-FACH	Grid Reference	SN54922705
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Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval
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Description

The modern farmstead of Cwmgelli-fach consists of the farmhouse, gable end tucked into the hillside and positioned across the slope; a farm building now converted to the east of the farmhouse; positioned on higher ground to the north is a pigsty (Prn 48765) and a barn (Prn 48766). The site of a further farm building, now demolished, was situated to the north of the farmstead in a small enclosure (Prn 48767) to the north of the barn.

The farmhouse is the earliest building in the complex and seems to be the only building recorded on the tithe map of 1841. The farmhouse has a smaller cow shed attached to the lower gable end, that is now converted for domestic use. The roof of the farmhouse was probably thatch originally and was replaced with corrugated iron. The present corrugated iron covering was new in 1938, it is in excellent condition, thanks to being tarred every three years by the current owner.

Recommendations

The farmstead is of very great historic interest. It is hoped that the historic integrity of the farmstead can be retained and enhanced by the sensitive restoration of the farm buildings, namely the barn, Prn 48766 and pigsty, Prn 48765.

Site Category B

PRN	48765	Site Name	CWMGELLI-FACH	Grid Reference	SN54922705
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Site Type	PIGSTY	Period	Modern
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Description

A double pigsty with two low loose boxes and yards to the front (south). The sties are largely constructed with rubble stone, although the front wall and the dressings (around openings) are red brick. The pitched slate roof is covered with slate. The yards to the front have been laid with a concrete floor and in each corner is a cast concrete trough. It is likely that the pigsties were lofted - perhaps to house fowl above - as a loft opening, with plank door, survives at the west gable end.

The pigsties are not recorded on the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 and would appear to have been constructed in first half of the 20th century. However, they are constructed in a tradition manner in keeping with the historic buildings of the farmstead.

The condition of the pigsties is deteriorating and it is hoped that the building can be restored through the scheme. The slates on the roof are beginning to loosen and some have slipped. The roof timbers appear to be in a reasonable condition. Elsewhere the masonry in the yard wall is becoming loose and the rubble stone capping is unstable. In isolated areas the facing stonework is also failing. The door to the right-hand sty is missing and the yard gates, constructed in corrugated iron are dropping on their hinges.

The sties are currently in use to home turkeys on one side and a goat on the other.

Recommendations

Maintenance to the pigsties would be a worthwhile undertaking to ensure their continued usefulness and survival.

In order to restore the building to a good condition the following works will need to be undertaken.

The roof should be repaired and slates should be refixed to make the structure watertight.

The yard wall needs to be consolidated. Works should endeavour to replicate the existing style of construction, in particular the use of red brick for the quoins, gate jambs and pier should be retained. The use of quartz in the rubble stone wall capping should also be copied; these elements are characteristic of the building and should be retained.

The gates to the yard and the doors will also need to be restored. Where possible these should be repaired in preference to replacement and any new doors and gates should copy the original design.

Site Category B



Prn 48765 – Cwmgelli-fach pigsty, (left) the west facing gable showing the loft hatch, and (right) the south of the pigsty showing the yard walls

PRN	48766	Site Name	CWMGELLI-FACH	Grid Reference	SN54922705
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Site Type	BARN	Period	Post Medieval
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Description

A rubble stone built barn lies at the top of a bank to the north of the farmyard. It is lofted at the western end, with a gable end opening at loft height. Large opposing doorways indicate a threshing area at the eastern end and a single stable door to the west suggests access for animal accommodation. The roof is pitched and covered with corrugated iron.

The barn is in good condition. The roof along with the other corrugated iron roofs on the farm, is regularly tarred and is in good condition too. The doors to the barn are missing and the stable door to the west is also rotting at its base.

Recommendations

It is hoped that through the scheme, the barn doors can be replaced / repaired. As with all works on traditional buildings there should be an emphasis on repairs to the original rather than replacement or renewal. Hence the stable door, which appears to be original, should be repaired, it should be possible to splice in a new piece of wood at the base of the door. In addition any original door furniture (hinges, latches) should be maintained or reused. New doors will have to be made up for the double entrance for the barn and these should be of a traditional design - like those that survive in the barn at Cwmgelli-fawr, Prn 48762.

Site Category B



Prn 48766 – the barn at Cwmgelli-fach, left - the large barn doors are missing and right - showing a detail of the stable door to be repaired

PRN	48767	Site Name	CWMGELLI-FACH	Grid Reference	SN54922708
Site Type	ENCLOSURE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

To the north of the barn (Prn 48766), is an almost square enclosure. It is marked on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1891 & 1907) with a rectangular building occupying the northwest corner. There is no visible trace of this building today. It is likely that this enclosure was used as a rickyard.

Recommendations

The vestiges of this enclosure should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category C

PRN	48768	Site Name	CWMGELLI-UCHAF	Grid Reference	SN54892758
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Lying at the head of the valley above Cwmgelli-fach is the relic farmstead of Cwmgelli-uchaf, last occupied in 1948. Two parallel, but widely spaced buildings are shown on the tithe map of 1841, but when the Ordnance Survey map was revised in 1907 the farmstead had reduced to a single building, the remains of which can still be seen today. The building is positioned across the slope, the gable end tucked into the hillside. This gable end survives to a height of approximately 2.5 metres. Elsewhere the walls of the building are low or indistinct, although the rough outline of the building is just about traceable. The owner relates that recent documentary research has revealed that two servants of George III came from this farm.

The ruins of Cwmgelli-uchaf are lightly grazed but also rather overgrown with young saplings which have become established close to, and within, the masonry remains of the building. These saplings will undoubtedly cause the rapid deterioration of the rest of the structure by dislodging stonework and also potentially cause damage by windthrow.

To the west of the farmstead is a pond which is well maintained as a habitat for wildlife.

Recommendations

The site of Cwmgelli-uchaf would benefit from the removal of some of the young saplings which pose a threat to the masonry remains of the building. The trees should be cut at ground level and the roots left in place and spot treated with a suitable herbicide to prevent regrowth. Care should be taken when felling and removing trees from the site, to prevent damage to the remaining stone work.

Site Category B



*Prn 48768 – the remains of the farmstead at Cwmgelli-uchaf
have become colonised by saplings.*

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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Ordnance Survey, 1891. Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXII.NE

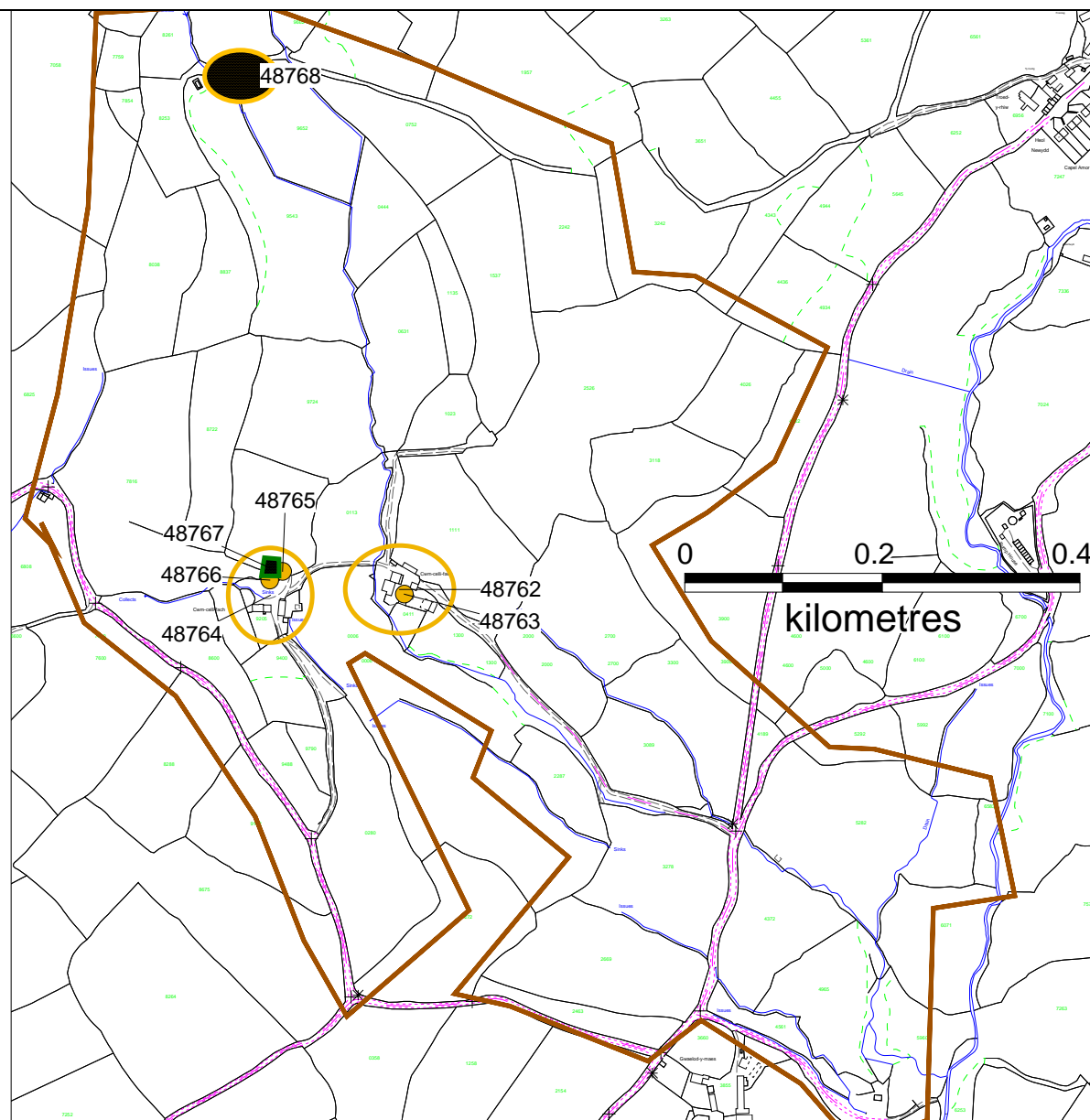
Ordnance Survey, 1906. Carmarthenshire Sheet XXXII.NE

Tithe Map and Apportionment of Llanfynydd Parish, 1841.








Cwmgelli-fach Farm
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3986
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 48485
 National Grid Reference SN55172708
 Map 1

-  Farm Boundary
- 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

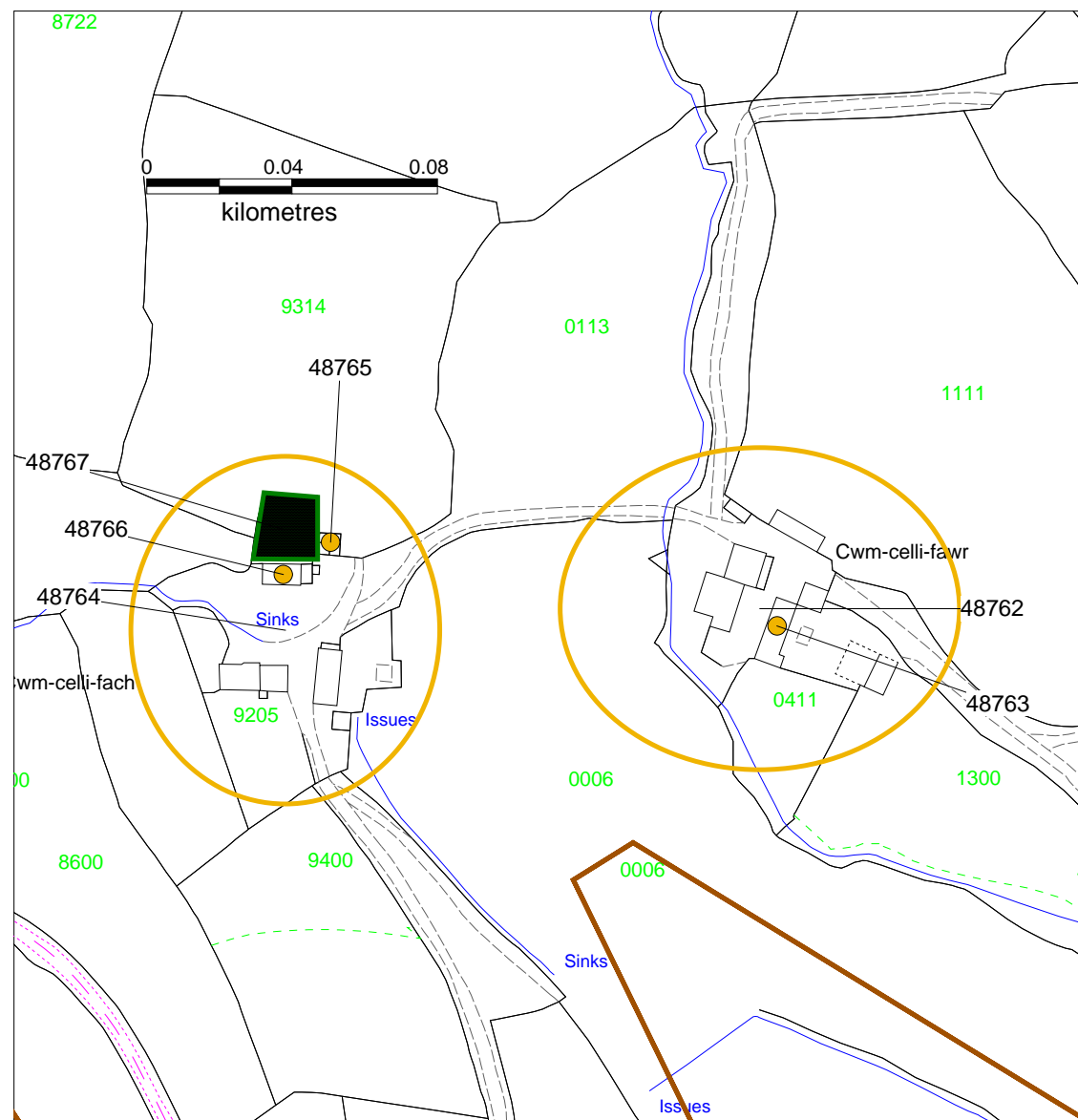
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Cwmgelli-fach Farm
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/3986
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 48485
 National Grid Reference SN55172708
 Map 2

-  Farm Boundary
- 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

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**Cwmgelli-fach
W/12/3986**

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PROJECT RECORD NO. 48485

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Signature Date

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