

West Orielton Farm W/13/4297

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



View across the 19th century decoy pond at West Orielton.

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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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

West Orielton farm lies at grid reference SR95259895, in the community of Hundelton. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on January 27th, 2004.

The farm lies on gently rolling fields around 2 miles southwest of Pembroke. It contains exceptional archaeological and historical interest which can be organised into two main themes: a; the parkland and gardens associated with the Orielton estate, and b; extensive Bronze Age activity in the north of the farm.

The Orielton estate has a long, documented history dating back to at least the 14th century (Jones:1996:146-148). The current house is probably the third in a sequence of mansions – the site of the first mansion (PRN 50099) is reputed to lie within a walled, rectangular enclosure which was later transformed into the ‘American gardens’ (PRN 50095). Much of the current park (PRN 36862) had taken its present shape by the early 19th century and the landscape character has changed little since then. The park is largely open, with woodland being restricted to defined plantations or set in belts along the parkland edges. A particularly noteworthy feature is the rare survival of a duck decoy lake (PRN 50090) at the north end. The farmstead itself (PRN 50106) contains a number of buildings listed at grade II and grade II*. Most notable is the dovecote (PRN 9912) which may be 16th century in date. A garden tower or folly (PRN 15956) is also grade II* listed.

In the north of the farm is the exceptionally well-preserved Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540). This is a monument of national importance, and has been designated as Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe60). South of the barrow cemetery, the other side of the decoy lake, are three further barrows (PRNs 578, 1270 and 1271). Given the proximity of these barrow groups, it seems likely that further features may have been lost when the lake was created. It is also likely that buried archaeology survives in the region around the barrows, and these areas should be regarded as extremely archaeologically sensitive.

The exceptional preservation of the buildings, parkland elements and barrows make West Orielton one of the most historically important farms in the region.

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES

- i. To ensure the long-term preservation of visible and buried archaeology associated with the scheduled barrow cemetery and the three further barrows in the north of the farm.
- ii. To maintain the historic character and visual impact of the parkland.

SITES REQUIRING ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

All of the sites on this farm are covered by the management guidelines given in section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features). A copy of these guidelines is included (see page 7).

Some sites would benefit from more specific or active management and recommendations for these sites are given below:

PRN 540 – DRY BURROWS BARROW CEMETERY, SAM Pe60

The barrow cemetery is currently subject to a management agreement with Cadw. The landowner proposes to bring management of the sites within the Tir Gofal agreement, adhering to the same conditions as those laid out by Cadw.

In addition, the following recommendations should be incorporated into the Tir Gofal agreement:

- i. The water trough in the northeast corner should be moved to the south end of the field to avoid livestock trampling the ground in and near the Scheduled Area.
- ii. The site should be monitored in wet weather and it may be necessary to remove livestock during prolonged wet periods.

PRN 1244 – ROUND BARROW, part of SAM Pe60

The ditch on the west side may contain material from the barrow, and therefore should be protected from disturbance.

- i. Ditch cleaning should only be carried out by hand, and it should be ensured that there is minimum disturbance.

PRNs 578, 1270 and 1271 – ROUND BARROWS

Management should aim to protect not only the upstanding barrows, but also any buried archaeology between them.

- i. These barrows should be taken out of cultivation. They, and the area surrounding them, should be maintained under pasture and no ground intrusive activities should be carried out.

PRN 36862 – ORIELTON PARK

Management should aim to continue to maintain the historic landscape character.

- i. No tree-planting should take place within the parkland unless it is to replace existing or lost historic trees.
- ii. Further creation of field boundaries and fences should be avoided as far as possible, especially across the open parkland south of the decoy pond.

PRN 50090 – DECOY POND

- i. The decoy lake is a prominent feature in Orierton park, and its current setting (woodland to the north and open ground to the south) should be maintained.
- ii. The decoy channels on the north side would benefit from vegetation and scrub clearance. The east channel (which still holds water) should be cleared of trees since their roots will be drying the channel out. Ideally some of the silt build-up between the lake and channel would be removed in order to allow water to pass easily between them. Selective tree clearance around the channel would make it more visible and accessible.
- iii. The dry channel, to the west, is currently under light woodland and appears stable. However this should be occasionally checked and any saplings growing on the base or sides of the channel should be cut back at ground level and removed.

PRN 50095 – AMERICAN GARDEN

Management should aim to retain the traces of the garden as visible features. See recommendations made for individual features under their PRNs.

- i. The woodland inside the garden should be managed so as to ensure that the area of the garden does not become inaccessible. Occasional scrub clearance and thinning, or periodic grazing, will be necessary to ensure that the undergrowth remains clear until the woodland canopy has developed enough to prevent dense scrub growth.
- ii. There is potential for buried archaeology to survive within this area. Consequently no ground-intrusive activities should be carried out.

PRN 50097 – HA HA

Management should aim to maintain the ha ha in a good condition.

- i. If the site is left in ungrazed woodland, it is likely that undergrowth will begin to swamp the site, and roots will damage the stonework. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that occasional light grazing is permitted to control new scrub growth.
- ii. Stocking levels should be reduced in order to prevent damage to the ditch. The site should not be grazed in wet weather.

PRN 50098 - WALL

Management should aim to restore and retain the structural integrity of this wall.

- i. Any areas where the stonework has fallen should be repaired, using the original stone where possible. Where this is not possible, stone should be sourced to match the original construction of the wall. The mortar and the building techniques should also match the originals.

TIR GOFAL FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN SECTION B2; ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES.

The management of all sites should comply with the following general requirements for the **maintenance and protection of archaeological and historic features**:

- Historic earthworks, stone structures, and archaeological sites must be retained and protected against damage.
- Unless the land has previously been used for arable crops, do not plough earthworks or archaeological sites, or cultivate so close as to cut into the surface profile of earthworks or cause damage to stone structures. On existing arable land, do not increase the depth of cultivation.
- Do not install any new drainage or underground services. Maintain an even cover of low growing vegetation and stock at a level that prevents any poaching or erosion. Do not site supplementary feeding areas or water troughs on archaeological or historic features.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without prior approval. Avoid using heavy machinery on such areas.
- Do not remove any material from archaeological or historic features or deposit any spoil or farm wastes.
- Remove any dead or unstable timber from the vicinity of earthworks or stone structures. Agree with the project officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by storm events such as wind-throw trees.
- Ensure that all rabbits are kept under control and do not cause damage to earthworks and archaeological sites.
- Do not carry out any excavations, erect any new structures or plant any trees without prior approval from the project officer.
- The use of metal detectors on land subject to agreement must be in accordance with the Treasure Act, 1996.
- Where surface archaeological finds have been discovered, the findspots should be treated with the same care as buried archaeological remains. Chance discoveries made during the course of your agreement should be notified to your local Archaeological Trust.

Traditional Buildings

- Traditional buildings, which are weatherproof and structurally sound, must be maintained in a weatherproof condition. Those traditional buildings, or parts of traditional buildings, that have not been modified previously must be maintained using traditional materials.
- Traditional buildings that have been modified previously may be maintained using compatible materials.
- Do not disturb any bats or barn owls that use the buildings. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	540	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR94869970
Site Type	BARROW CEMETARY	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

A group of eight round barrows, seven of which lie inside the boundary of West Orielton farm. The whole group has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This designation recognises that the barrow group is a monument of national importance, and provides statutory protection for it. The extent of the Scheduled Area is shown on the attached map (p. 34)

The Scheduling description notes a *“Superb group of round barrows...This is one of the best preserved and finest barrow groups in Pembs, probably Wales, and must not be allowed to suffer further ploughing.”*

The barrows are all in close proximity (less than 100m between barrows) and are preserved under pasture. Generally they are in good condition, with an even turf covering over them.

The field in which most of the barrows are situated (the west side of the barrow cemetery) was very wet underfoot on the day of the farm visit. A water trough was sited in the northeast corner of the field, and there was some livestock trampling evident near the trough and also along the hedgeline running to the south.

The relationship between these barrows and the three found south of the decoy lake (PRNs 578, 1270 and 1271) is unknown. However, the close proximity of the two groups of barrows raises the possibility that there are further features in the northern part of the farm which may survive as buried archaeology.

Barrow sites can date from the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC). They are circular mounds of earth or stone, often placed over the location of a burial. Where barrows occur in groups, excavations have revealed that there are also features in the spaces between the barrows. These features can be flat graves (cremations or inhumations buried in pits, sometimes covered with stones or surrounded by stake-holes which may have supported timber structures) or small urn-fields (groups of buried pottery vessels containing cremated bone).

Recommendations

The barrow cemetery is currently subject to a management agreement with Cadw. The landowner proposes to bring management of the sites within the Tir Gofal agreement, adhering to the same conditions as those laid out by Cadw. These conditions include:

- i) To maintain the stile and information sign;
- ii) To maintain an access path to the stile from the road by strimming;
- iii) To encourage and maintain a permanent grass cover on the monument and to ensure that any pasture renewal is carried out by non-destructive means which do not disturb the ground surface of the monument;
- iv) To control any regeneration weeds, scrub, sapling growth on the monument by adopting a suitable grazing regime. If this is not possible, or proves ineffective, regeneration shall be re-cut to ground level annually;
- v) To control burrowing animals (in the case of badgers, such control can only be undertaken by authority of a licence issued by the Countryside Council for Wales under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. If an application is made for such a licence, the occupier must notify Cadw);

- vi) To control stock at a level, which will prevent the breakdown of grass cover if, the site of the monument is periodically grazed. Any erosion scars on the monument shall be allowed to recover naturally, but if this does not occur within 2 years of the breakdown first occurring, or the erosion increases, the areas shall be re-seeded in either the autumn or spring season. In particular the erosion on and around Barrows A, B and C (PRNs 12789,1247 and 1246) shall be carefully monitored and the areas re-seeded if they do not naturally recover in the first two years of the agreement. A locally-sourced, native seed mix, shall be used for any re-seeding work on the monument. No animal feeders or feed shall be placed within the scheduled area;
- vii) Vehicles and machinery shall only be used on the scheduled area when rutting and ground disturbance will be avoided;
- viii) To ensure that stock-proof fencing, access stile and sign are maintained in effective condition;
- ix) To ensure that ploughing operations in areas adjacent to the monument are kept 5 metres outside the perimeter of the scheduled area;
- x) Not to afford any person access to the scheduled area for the purpose of using a metal detector without the written consent of the Assembly;
- xi) To obtain the prior consent of the Assembly for all works involving the breaking of the ground surface of the monument.

In addition, the following recommendations should be incorporated into the Tir Gofal agreement:

- i. The water trough in the northeast corner should be moved to the south end of the field to avoid livestock trampling the ground in and near the Scheduled Area.
- ii. The site should be monitored in wet weather, and it may be necessary to remove livestock during prolonged wet periods.

Site Category A



Plate 1 *View of two of the barrows in this well-preserved barrow cemetery.*

PRN	578	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR99109535
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE		

Description

A pronounced, grass covered round barrow which stands to around 1.5m. The barrow has a well-defined shape, around 20m in diameter, and is under pasture.

This barrow is one of three set within 200m of each other (PRNs 578, 1270 and 1271). All are within 500m of the Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540), separated from it by the duck decoy lake (PRN 50090). It is interesting to speculate whether any further barrows may have been lost during the creation of the lake, which was complete by the early 19th century.

It is clear that this area was a focus for considerable Bronze Age activity, and there is a high possibility that buried archaeology survives not only within the barrows but also in the areas between them. Consequently, the sites have been placed into site category A. This means that they are potentially of the same importance as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Recommendations

Management should aim to protect not only the upstanding barrows, but also any buried archaeology between them. The barrow and the area surrounding it should be maintained under pasture and no ground intrusive activities should be carried out.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category A

PRN	582	Site Name	Grid Reference	SR955981
Site Type	FLINTWORKING FLOOR	Period	MESOLITHIC?; NEOLITHIC?	

Description

Finds relating to a flintworking floor are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record in this area. However, the precise location of the flintworking floor is unknown, and the site was not visited on this occasion. The site is of interest as it adds a time-depth to the landscape, taking its occupational history back beyond the Bronze Age (see PRN 540).

Recommendations

It is unlikely that there will be any surface remains by which to identify this recorded site. If anything is known of the site, or if any finds are made, please contact Cambria Archaeology. Otherwise no specific management recommendations apply.

Site Category D

PRN	1244	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR94799962
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

One of the barrows in the Dry Burrows cemetery (PRN 540). This grass-covered mound is around 30m in diameter and 0.8m high. A ditch and hedge on the western side just clip the side of the barrow.

Recommendations

- i. The ditch on the west side may contain material from the barrow, and therefore should be protected from disturbance.
- ii. Ditch cleaning should only be carried out by hand, and it should be ensured that there is minimum disturbance.

Site Category A

PRN	1245	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR95039970
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

One of the barrows in the Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540). This is around 1m high and 20m in diameter. It is grass covered, although some of the cover on the top of the mound has been lost. At present, this is not causing any erosion problems.

Recommendations

The exposed surface on the top of the barrow should be monitored, and if it does not grass over it should be re-seeded - see recommendations made for the barrow cemetery (PRN 540).

Site Category A

PRN	1246	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR94909972
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

A circular mound some 1.2m high and 18m in diameter. A hedgebank runs along the eastern margin of the site.

Recommendations

See recommendations made for the barrow cemetery (PRN 540).

Site Category A

PRN	1247	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR94839972
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

The best preserved barrow within the Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540). This mound is about 38m in diameter and 1.6m high. It is grass covered and in excellent condition.

Recommendations

See recommendations made for the barrow cemetery (PRN 540).

Site Category A

PRN	1270	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95249930
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE		

Description

The site of a round barrow, marked by a low mound. This barrow is one of three set within 200m of each other (PRNs 578, 1270 and 1271). All are within 500m of the Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540), separated from it by the duck decoy lake (PRN 50090). It is interesting to speculate whether any further barrows may have been lost during the creation of the lake, which was complete by the early 19th century.

The site is currently in an arable rotation and is periodically ploughed.

It is clear that this area was a focus for considerable Bronze Age activity, and there is a high possibility that buried archaeology survives not only within the barrows but also in the areas between them. Consequently, the sites have been placed into site category A. This means that they are potentially of the same importance as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Recommendations

Management should aim to protect not only the upstanding barrows, but also any buried archaeology between them. This barrow should be taken out of cultivation. It, and the area surrounding it, should be maintained under pasture and no ground intrusive activities should be carried out.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category A

PRN	1271	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR94989922
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE		

Description

The site of a round barrow, marked by a mound which is somewhat spread by ploughing and now has no clear edges. The landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that ploughing this area always turned up large amounts of stone.

In isolation, this site is not very impressive and could be taken for a natural feature. However, its close proximity to two other barrows (within 200m of PRNs 578 and 1270) and the fact that all three of these are within 500m of the Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540) makes it likely that the identification of this site as a round barrow is correct.

It is clear that this area was a focus for considerable Bronze Age activity, and there is a high possibility that buried archaeology survives not only within the barrows but also in the areas between them. Consequently, the sites have been placed into site category A. This means that they are potentially of the same importance as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Recommendations

Management should aim to protect not only the upstanding barrows, but also any buried archaeology between them. This barrow should be taken out of cultivation. It, and the area surrounding it, should be maintained under pasture and no ground intrusive activities should be carried out.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category A

PRN	9912	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid	95309896
Site Type	DOVECOTE	Period	MEDIEVAL?; POST-MEDIEVAL	Reference	LB II*

Description

A circular dovecote built into the southeast corner of West Orielton farmstead (PRN 50105). The dovecote is grade II* listed (Ref 5961) and the Cadw listing description comments that it is *“Possibly 16th century, circular, red sandstone, columbarium, roughcast and limewashed. Conical roof of fairly small slates, on central truss with radial rafters. Interior: with 26 rows of 60 nests each, approximately, formed in brick with slate ledges.”* The dovecote may be contemporary with the second Orielton mansion, which lies on the site of the present house, some 160m northeast.

Recommendations

Since the dovecote is a listed building, listed building consent would be required from Cadw before beginning any works on it, and works should be undertaken in consultation with the Local Authority Conservation Officer. The principles outlined in section B2 of the Tir Gofal farm management plan (Traditional Buildings) apply.

Site Category A



Plate 2 *View of the dovecote from the southeast.*

PRN	12789	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR9489979
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

A well-preserved, grass covered mound about 1.25m high and 25m in diameter. A hedgebank runs along the eastern margin of the site, and there is some superficial livestock trampling along the hedgebank. Part of barrow cemetery PRN 540.

Recommendations

See recommendations made for the barrow cemetery (PRN 540). Moving the water trough should help to prevent any further problems with trampling.

Site Category A

PRN	12790	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR94999971
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

A grass covered mound in good condition, around 0.7m high and 25m in diameter. Part of the Dry Burrows barrow cemetery (PRN 540).

Recommendations

See recommendations made for the barrow cemetery (PRN 540).

Site Category A

PRN	12791	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR94769977
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

This barrow lies outside the boundary of West Orielton farm.

Recommendations

No management recommendations apply.

Site Category A

PRN	12792	Site Name	DRY BURROWS	Grid Reference	SR95039970
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	BRONZE AGE	Site status	SAM Pe60

Description

A low, grassy mound about 0.5m high and an estimated 25m in diameter. A hedgebank cuts across the barrow on the eastern side.

Recommendations

See recommendations made for the barrow cemetery (PRN 540).

Site Category A

PRN	15956	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95439875
Site Type	TOWER	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	LB grade II* PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A three-storey roofless tower, set at the highest point of the park. Arches in the north and south are large enough to admit a carriage, and the ground floor is of rubble stone construction. The first and second floors are built of brick, and a fireplace is visible on each floor level. Traces of render remain inside, indicating potentially elaborate decoration. Externally, sandstone blocks decorate the windows and the quoins are also of sandstone.

The tower may be mid 17th century and it has been suggested that it is built on the remains of an earlier lookout tower (Cadw:2002:265). This would be in keeping with the idea that Orielton originated as a Medieval stronghold (Cadw:2002:263 – 4).

The listed building details describe the tower as being ‘...included at Grade II* as one of the most important folly buildings in SW Wales; apparently already derelict by mid C19, but described as a banqueting tower in estate sale documents. The brick and stone detail may echo that of the main house described, before the 1810 remodelling, as being of brick and stone.’

Recommendations

Within Tir Gofal, management should aim to maintain this tower in a stable and visible condition. However, the landowner has expressed an intention to apply for planning permission and listed building consent to convert the building into accommodation. It is outside the scope of Tir Gofal to comment in detail on these proposals. However, if the conversion is sympathetically carried out it will undoubtedly extend the life of the building, and is therefore to be welcomed.

Site Category A



Plate 3 *Grade II* listed tower which may have been used as a banqueting tower.*

PRN	36862	Site Name	ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95219936
Site Type	PARK	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

Parkland and gardens associated with Orielton house (PRN 6984). The extent of the parkland, as shown on the attached map, is that defined within the Cadw and ICOMOS register of Parks and Gardens. Only part of the park is included within the Tir Gofal application for West Orielton farm.

The parkland as it survives today has changed little since the early 19th century, but it was probably laid out earlier. Notable features include a substantial, and rare, duck decoy lake (PRN 50090), a tower (PRN 15956) and 'American gardens' (PRN 50095).

The parkland comprises very distinct areas of woodland set in an otherwise open landscape. Very few scattered trees are depicted on historic maps, but belts of trees flank the edges of the park. This landscape character has persisted to the present day.

Recommendations

Management should aim to continue to maintain the historic landscape character.

- i. No tree-planting should take place within the parkland unless it is to replace existing or lost historic trees.
- ii. Further creation of field boundaries and fences should be avoided as far as possible, especially across the open parkland south of the decoy pond.

Site Category B



Plate 4 *View across the open, rolling parkland leading down to the decoy pond.*

PRN	50090	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95029944
Site Type	FISH POND; DUCK DECOY LAKE	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A substantial lake which is shown on the tithe map (Monkton Parish, 1841?) but does not appear to be on the Ordnance Survey map of 1818 (Old Series, sheet 38).

The lake was originally somewhat larger than it is today – the tithe map and the Ordnance Survey 1869 map show the eastern end extending as far as the driveway, and the lake is labelled as ‘fish pond’. By 1908, the eastern end had been re-configured, with two duck decoy channels extending from the east end, and one from the south. Two further decoy channels were noted on the field visit, on the north side of the lake. These are not seen on the 1908 map, so may be later additions. Decoy channels decrease in width away from the main body of water, to allow birds to be lured down them and then netted. At the west end, the water is contained by a large earthen dam (PRN 50092).

Few decoy lakes survive, and only one other has been recorded in Wales (Cadw:2002:265).

Consequently, this lake is of considerable importance. It is set in a carefully designed parkland, with open, rolling ground to the south of the lake allowing views of the water from Orielton house. Behind the lake, on the north side, is a ‘screen’ of woodland, named on historic maps as ‘Pond Wood’.

The two decoy channels at the east end are now mostly silted up and are inaccessible, set in an

area of very boggy woodland. The channel to the south is in a similar situation. Both decoy channels on the north side survive in reasonable condition. The one to the west, closest to the dam (PRN 50092) is now dry, but survives as a clear earthwork curving into the wood. The earthwork appears to be very stable and lightly wooded. There is an active badger set on the north side. The second decoy channel, further east, still holds water but is somewhat overgrown. The 'joint' between the channel and the lake has partially silted up so the water level in the channel is very low. The channel is accessible but is overgrown, with trees growing inside it and along its banks.

Recommendations

- i. The decoy lake is a prominent feature in Orierton park, and its current setting (woodland to the north and open ground to the south) should be maintained.
- ii. The decoy channels on the north side would benefit from vegetation and scrub clearance. The east channel (which still holds water) should be cleared of trees since their roots will be drying the channel out. Ideally some of the silt build-up between the lake and channel would be removed in order to allow water to pass easily between them. Selective tree clearance around the channel would make it more visible and accessible. Care should be taken when carrying out any clearance work – there is likely to be a lining to the channel (possibly of puddled clay) and this should not be punctured.
- iii. The dry channel, to the west, is currently under light woodland and appears stable. However this should be occasionally checked and any saplings growing on the base or sides of the channel should be cut back at ground level and removed.

Site Category B



Plate 5 (above) *The dry decoy channel on the north side of the pond.*

Plate 6 (below) *Footbridge leading onto the dam at the western end of the pond.*



PRN	50091	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR94839925
Site Type	SLUICE; FOOTBRIDGE	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A small stone and brick footbridge with parts of a sluice mechanism surviving under the arch of the bridge. The bridge is sited at the south end of the earth dam (PRN 50092) which marks the western end of Orielson decoy lake (PRN 50090).

Recommendations

Management should maintain this bridge in its current condition, as a visible and useable feature. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category B

PRN	50092	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR94839929
Site Type	DAM	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A substantial earth dam which marks the west edge of the decoy lake at Orielson (PRN 50090). The 1908 Ordnance Survey map shows a line of trees planted next to the western edge of the dam, and some traces of that planting still remain.

Recommendations

Management should aim to maintain the dam in its current good, stable condition. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations

Site Category B

PRN	50093	Site Name		Grid Reference	SR94939946
Site Type	FIELD BOUNDARY?	Period	UNKNOWN	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A low earth and stone bank running through part of Pond Wood, behind (north of) the decoy lake (PRN 50090). The bank runs roughly northeast – southwest and meets with a dried duck decoy channel at its southwest end.

The date or function of the bank is unknown. It may be an old field boundary, reflecting earlier land division prior to the construction of the lake.

Recommendations

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations

Site Category D

PRN	50094	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95509870
Site Type	LODGE	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A ruined stone lodge house, part of Orielton park (PRN 36862). The lodge boasts a host of decorative features including gothic style windows with pointed arches, faced sandstone blocks around the windows and door-frames, and unusual, octagonal brick chimneys. Surviving external plaster on the east gable suggests that the decoration of the lodge was in a similar style to that of the nearby tower (PRN 15956).

In the garden behind the lodge are the remains of a ruined pigsty, of the same rubble stone construction as the house. The lodge is not listed. However, it seems likely that this was an oversight, as the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the building was previously almost invisible under scrub and undergrowth. Consequently, the lodge should be regarded as if it were listed along with the tower (PRN 15956, grade II* listed) and other lodges associated with Orielton (North Lodge, PRN 15937, grade II listed; Images Lodge, PRN 6977, grade II listed; Rose Lodge, PRN 50107, grade II listed).

Recommendations

Within Tir Gofal, management should aim to maintain this lodge in a stable and visible condition. However, the landowner has expressed an intention to apply for planning permission to convert the building into accommodation. It is outside the scope of Tir Gofal to comment in detail on these proposals. However, if the conversion is sympathetically carried out it will undoubtedly extend the life of the building, and is therefore to be welcomed.

Site Category B



Plate 7 *North elevation of the ruined lodge.*

PRN	50095	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95539881
Site Type	AMERICAN GARDEN	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

The site of a garden described in the mid 19th century as “...a singularly beautiful pleasure garden of about four acres, walled around, in American and French gardening, planted with the choicest flowering and other shrubs in great profusion with grassed and gravelled walks...” (Cadw:2002:266).

Little remains of the garden today, save for the outer walls. To the west and south sides the garden is bounded by a high stone wall (up to 4m). On the north and east sides the boundary is a ha ha with a decorative stone wall on the outside. The ground level is higher inside the American garden than outside but the parapet of the wall is still visible from within the gardens. The area of the garden is overgrown with woodland, and the only internal features seen are slight traces of a possible sunken garden (PRN 50096).

The concept of the ‘American garden’ gained popularity in Britain from the second half of the 18th century, when hardy North American plants were relatively easy to obtain. They were showcases for exotic species, and it is possible that the walls were built to shelter the plants. However, the American gardens are also believed to be on the site of the first mansion (PRN 50099), which would indicate that the wall (PRN 50098) south of the gardens may have been the curtilage wall of the earlier mansion. The rectangular, walled enclosure of the garden is seen on the Ordnance Survey 1818 map.

Recommendations

Management should aim to retain the traces of the garden as visible features. See recommendations made for individual features under their PRNs.

- i. The woodland inside the garden should be managed so as to ensure that the area of the garden does not become inaccessible. Occasional scrub clearance and thinning, or periodic grazing, will be necessary to ensure that the undergrowth remains clear until the woodland canopy has developed enough to prevent dense scrub growth.
- ii. There is potential for buried archaeology to survive within this area. Consequently no ground-intrusive activities should be carried out.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations

Site Category B

PRN	50096	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95539884
Site Type	SUNKEN GARDEN?	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A short stretch of stone wall and a small stone lined pool which may represent the traces of a sunken garden set within the American garden (PRN 50095). The wall stands around 3m high but runs for only 3.5 – 4m. It does not appear to be unfinished, nor are there any traces of other walling. A few metres north of the wall is a slight hollow in the ground with a stone-lined oval pool at the centre. This may be a small sunken garden, for growing or displaying exotic plant species. It is possible that the wall was constructed as shelter for delicate plants.

The site is under light woodland, and seems stable.

Just to the northwest, close to the northwest corner of the garden, is a collection of stone pieces which appear to have been building stone. Amongst these is a carved piece which looks like it may have been part of a gatepost or pillar, with a metal rod which would have supported a carved urn or ball to top the pillar. It is not known whether these pieces are associated with the ‘sunken garden’.

Recommendations

Management should aim to retain these features in their current positions, and to ensure that they remain accessible and visible. See recommendations made for the American garden (PRN 50095) as well as section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category B

PRN	50097	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95579880
Site Type	HA HA	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A ha ha running around the north and east sides of the American garden (PRN 50095). The parapet of the stone wall, on the side closest to the garden, has a decorative pattern made up of alternate missing blocks. The ditch, on the side away from the garden, is generally in fair condition, but cattle trampling has begun to break down the slope into the ditch and the grass cover has been almost completely lost.

The ha ha is set in an area of woodland, and under Tir Gofal it is proposed that the woodland will be left ungrazed, as a habitat area.

Recommendations

Management should aim to maintain the ha ha in a good condition.

- i. If the site is left in ungrazed woodland, it is likely that undergrowth will begin to swamp the site, and roots will damage the stonework. To prevent this happening, it is recommended that occasional light grazing is permitted to control new scrub growth.
- ii. Stocking levels should be reduced in order to prevent damage to the ditch. The site should not be grazed in wet weather.

Site Category B



Plate 8 *Part of the ha ha around the American gardens site.*

PRN	50098	Site Name	ORIELTON PARK	Grid Reference	SR95209885 ;
Site Type	WALL	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	SR95739860 PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

A high stone wall running around the south side of the American gardens (PRN 50095) and woodland plantations, and around the east side of West Orielton farmstead (PRN 50106). This wall may be the curtilage wall of the first Orielton mansion (PRN 50099) which is reputed to have been constructed on the site where the American gardens now are. This would give a construction date somewhere in the first half of the seventeenth century (Cadw:2002:265). The wall is generally in good condition, although ivy covered, and stands to its full height. There are a few places where some of the stonework has fallen.

Recommendations

Management should aim to restore and retain the structural integrity of this wall.

- i. Any areas where the stonework has fallen should be repaired, using the original stone where possible. Where this is not possible, stone should be sourced to match the original construction of the wall. The mortar and the building techniques should also match the originals.

Site Category B

PRN	50099	Site Name	ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95539880
Site Type	MANSION HOUSE?	Period	MEDIEVAL?; POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	PGW (Dy) 38 (PEM)

Description

The probable site of the first Orielton mansion, which may have medieval origins (Jones:1996:146– 48). The site was later made into the American Gardens (PRN 50095). No above ground traces of any building survive, but the folly/tower (PRN 15956) just to the southwest may have been built on the ruins of an early lookout tower associated with the first house. The site is currently under woodland.

Recommendations

Management needs to provide protection for any buried archaeology which survives in this area, associated with the first house.

See recommendations made for the American garden (PRN 50095) as well as section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category D

PRN 50100 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SR95649869

Site Type COTTAGE **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

Description

The site of a cottage identified on historic maps. No remains were identified on the ground.

Recommendations

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category D

PRN 50101 **Site Name** ORIELTON **Grid Reference** SR95239893

Site Type CARTSHED **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL **Site status** LB II

Description

A 19th century stone cartshed with a barn attached to the north end, part of the range of outbuildings set to the west of West Orielton farmhouse (PRN 50103). The range is listed (grade II, ref 6601) for its group value as part of a well-preserved 19th century estate farm (West Orielton, PRN 50106).

Recommendations

Since the cartshed is a listed building, listed building consent would be required from Cadw before beginning any works on it and works should be carried out in consultation with the local authority conservation officer. The principles outlined in section B2 of the Tir Gofal farm management plan (Traditional Buildings) also apply.

Site Category B

PRN 50102 **Site Name** ORIELTON **Grid Reference** SR95239895

Site Type AGRICULTURAL BUILDING **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL **Site status** LB II

Description

A 19th century single-storey stone outbuilding, running along the north edge of the courtyard to the west of West Orielton farmhouse (PRN 50103). This is part of a range of outbuildings which is listed (grade II, ref 6601) for its group value as part of a well-preserved 19th century estate farm (West Orielton, PRN 50106).

Recommendations

Since this is a listed building, consent would be required from Cadw before beginning any works on it. Works should be carried out in consultation with the local authority conservation officer. See also the principles outlined in section B2 of the Tir Gofal farm management plan.

Site Category B

PRN	50103	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95269894
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	LB II

Description

A grade II listed farmhouse (ref 6599), part of the 19th century farmstead at West Orielton.

Recommendations

The house is inhabited as a dwelling and is therefore outside the Tir Gofal agreement. No management recommendations apply.

Site Category B

PRN	50104	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95289895
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL	Site status	LB II*

Description

An agricultural building forming the south side of the courtyard to the east of West Orielton farmhouse (PRN 50103). This is a two storey stone range which meets the dovecote (PRN 9912) at its east end and the farmhouse at its west end. It is part of a group of outbuildings to the east of the farmhouse which are listed (grade II*, ref 6600) both for their group value as part of a well-preserved 19th century estate farm (West Orielton, PRN 50106) and for their association with the dovecote.

Recommendations

Since this is a listed building, listed building consent would be required from Cadw before beginning any works on it. The principles outlined in section B2 of the Tir Gofal farm management plan (Traditional Buildings) also apply.

Site Category A

PRN	50105	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95299897
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	LB II*

Description

An agricultural building running along the east side of the courtyard which is set immediately east of West Orielton farmhouse (PRN 50103). This single storey stone range runs north from the dovecote (PRN 9912) and meets a high rubble stone wall which encloses the courtyard on the north side. It is part of a group of outbuildings to the east of the farmhouse which are listed (grade II*, ref 6600) both for their group value as part of a well-preserved 19th century estate farm (West Orielton, PRN 50106) and for their association with the dovecote.

Recommendations

Since this is a listed building, listed building consent would be required from Cadw before beginning any works on it. The principles outlined in section B2 of the Tir Gofal farm management plan (Traditional Buildings) also apply.

Site Category A

PRN	50106	Site Name	WEST ORIELTON	Grid Reference	SR95269895
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	LB II & II*

Description

West Orielton farmstead contains a number of buildings listed at grade II and grade II* (PRNs 9912, 50101 – 50105).

The farmstead was recorded on the tithe map (1841, Monkton parish) only as ‘buildings and yard’, but by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1869) the farmstead had been considerably enlarged to include two rough ‘courtyards’ – one to the east of the farmhouse and one to the west. The re-modelling incorporated the earlier dovecote (PRN 9912) into the yard. This historic ‘core’ of the farmstead survives today.

The long history of West Orielton Farm and its association with the Orielton estate, and the exceptional quality of the buildings combine to make it one of the most historically important farms in the region.

Recommendations

The individual buildings which make up the farm are protected by their designations as listed buildings. In addition, all farm buildings surrounding a listed farmhouse are regarded as the curtilage of the farmhouse, and are therefore also protected by the listing which applies to the farmhouse. The principles outlined in section B2 of the Tir Gofal farm management plan (Traditional Buildings) apply.

Site Category A

PRN	50107	Site Name	ROSE LODGE; WEST ORIELTON LODGE	Grid Reference	SR95189885
Site Type	LODGE	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL	Site status	LB II

Description

A lodge set at the west end of the lane leading to the tower (PRN 15956) and to East Orielton farm.

The lodge appeared to be in good condition and to be inhabited as a private dwelling.

Recommendations

If the building is inhabited it is outside the remit of the Tir Gofal scheme. No management recommendations therefore apply.

Site Category B

PRN	50108	Site Name	NORTH LODGE; WEST LODGE	Grid Reference	SM95420000
Site Type	LODGE	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL		

Description

A lodge set at the north end of the drive leading to West Orielton farm. The lodge is shown on historic maps as 'North Lodge' but is now known as 'West Lodge'.

The lodge appeared to be in good condition and to be inhabited as a private dwelling.

Recommendations

If the building is inhabited it is outside the remit of the Tir Gofal scheme. No management recommendations therefore apply.

Site Category B

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.



REFERENCES

Cadw and ICOMOS UK: 2002: Register of Parks and Gardens in Wales – Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
Jones,F:1996:Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families




Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XLII.NE
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XLII.4
Ordnance Survey 1869 Pembrokeshire XXXIX.SE
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXXIX.SE
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXXIX.16
Tithe map and apportionment 1841? Monkton Parish

West Orielton Farm


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4297
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN48515
National Grid Reference SR95259895

-  Farm Boundary
-  Boundary of Orielton Park


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

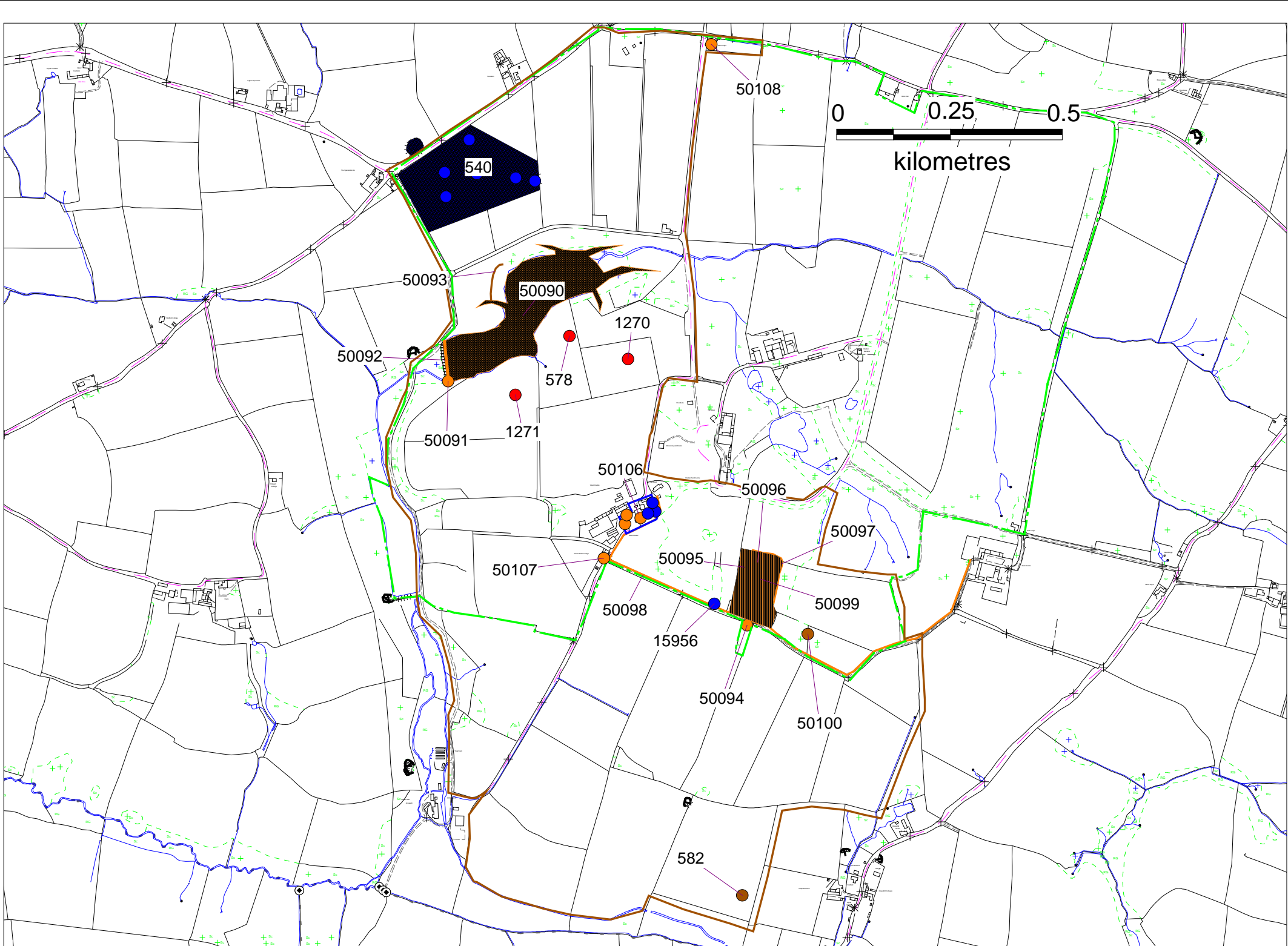
-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D – Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

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West Orielton Farmstead

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4297
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 48515
 National Grid Reference SR95269895

 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

 Extent of the farmstead as seen on historic maps


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

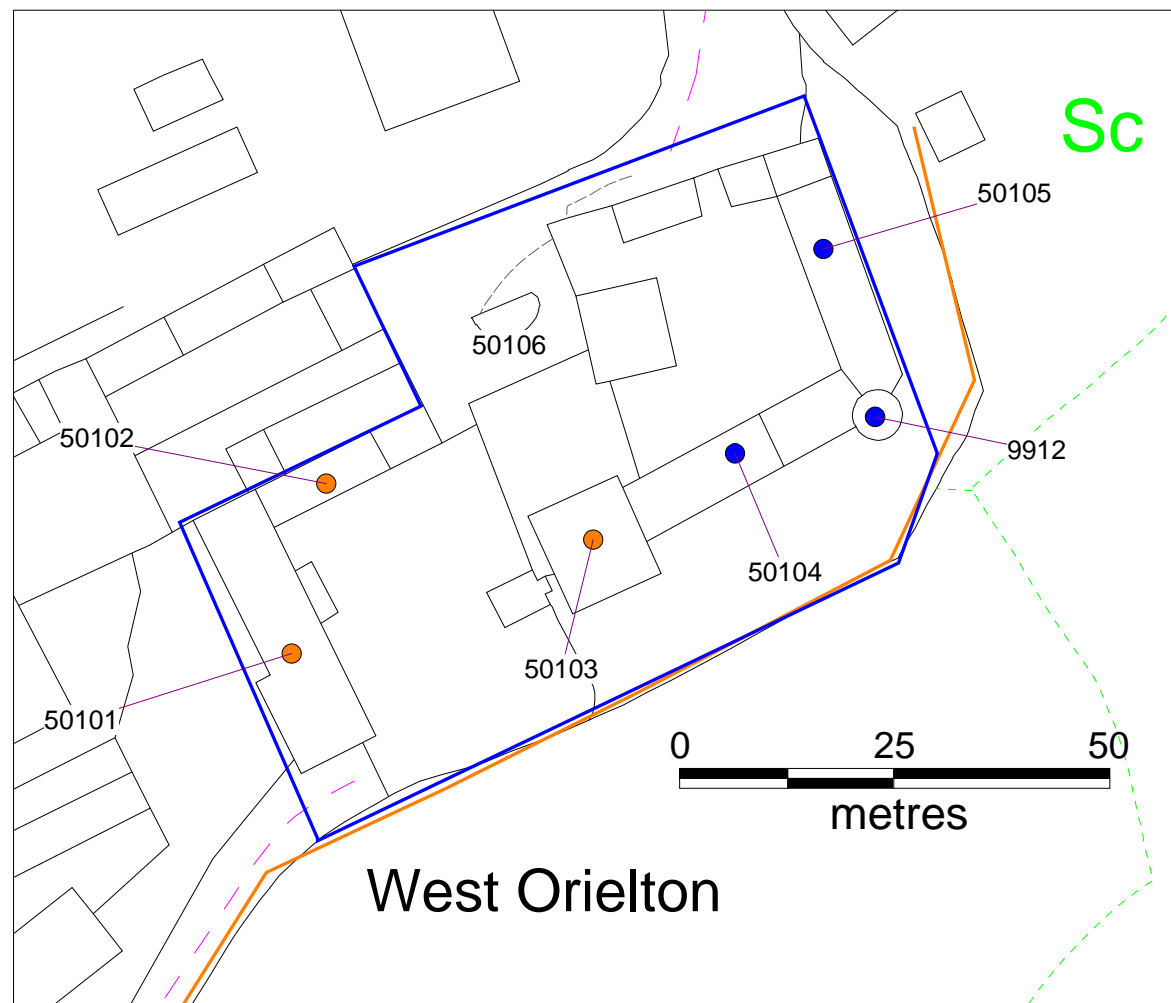
Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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West Orielton Farm
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4297
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 National Grid Reference SR94879969


Dry Burrows Barrow Cemetery

 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

 Extent of the Scheduled Area


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

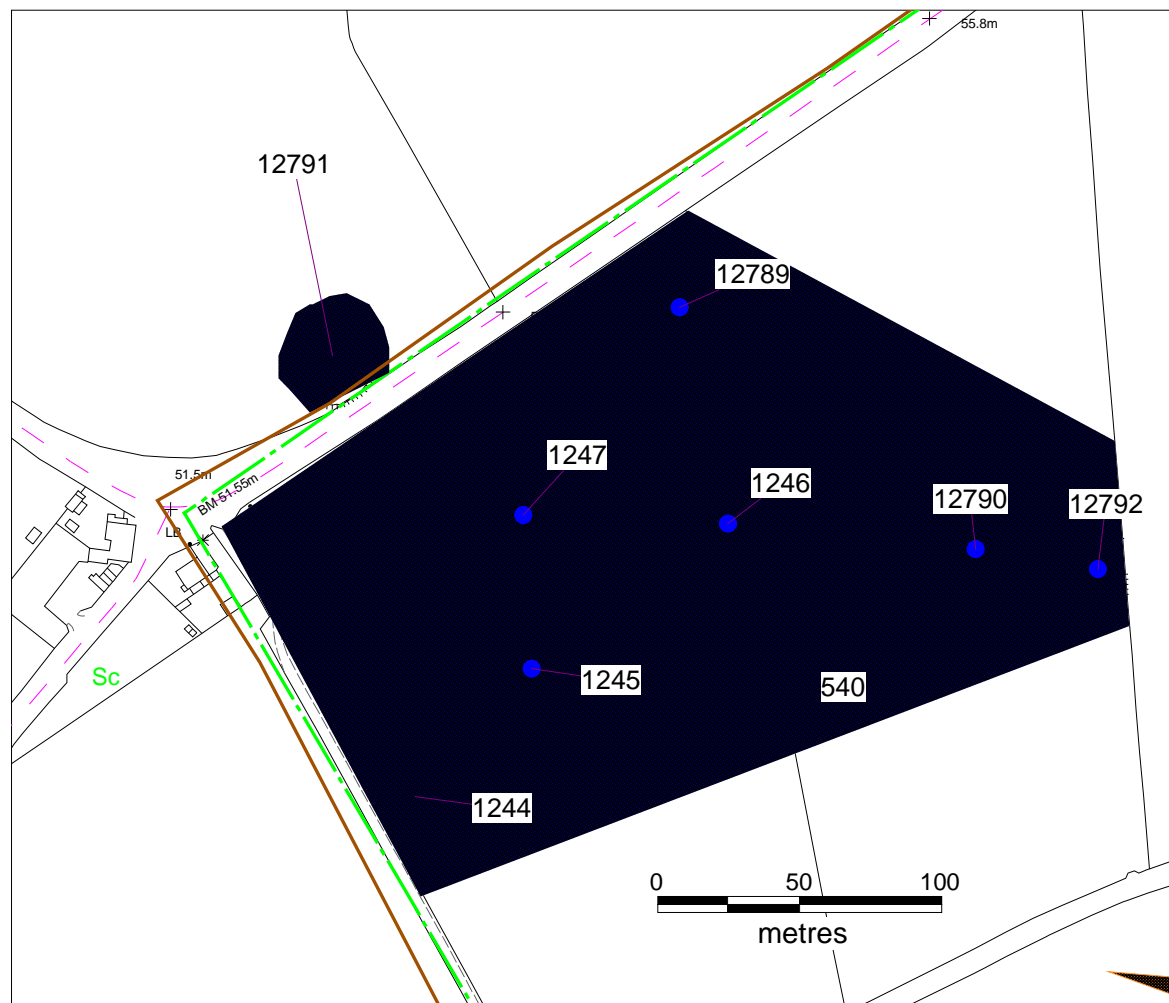
Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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**West Orielton Farm
W/13/4297**

REPORT NUMBER 2004/13

February 2004

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