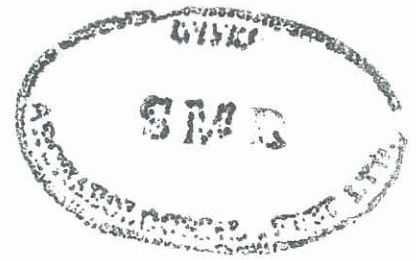


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Ysgubor-wen W/13/4028

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report Call Out



Report No. 2003/133

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Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/133
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Ysgubor-wen
Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report
Call Out

By

Will Steele

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Introduction

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to address specific management issues on this farm. The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

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

General Description of Farm

Ysgubor-wen (SN10453811) lies approximately one kilometre to the south of Felindre Farchog in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

It is situated in the northern limits of the Preseli registered landscape of outstanding historic interest (CCW/Cadw 1998). This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, which identifies the different historic landscape components, which give a specific area its unique qualities. It falls within the Eglwysrwrw Historic Landscape Character Area: 280, which is characterised by a combination of regular and irregular medium sized fields, dispersed farms and cottages and scattered woodland on some of the steeper valley sides.

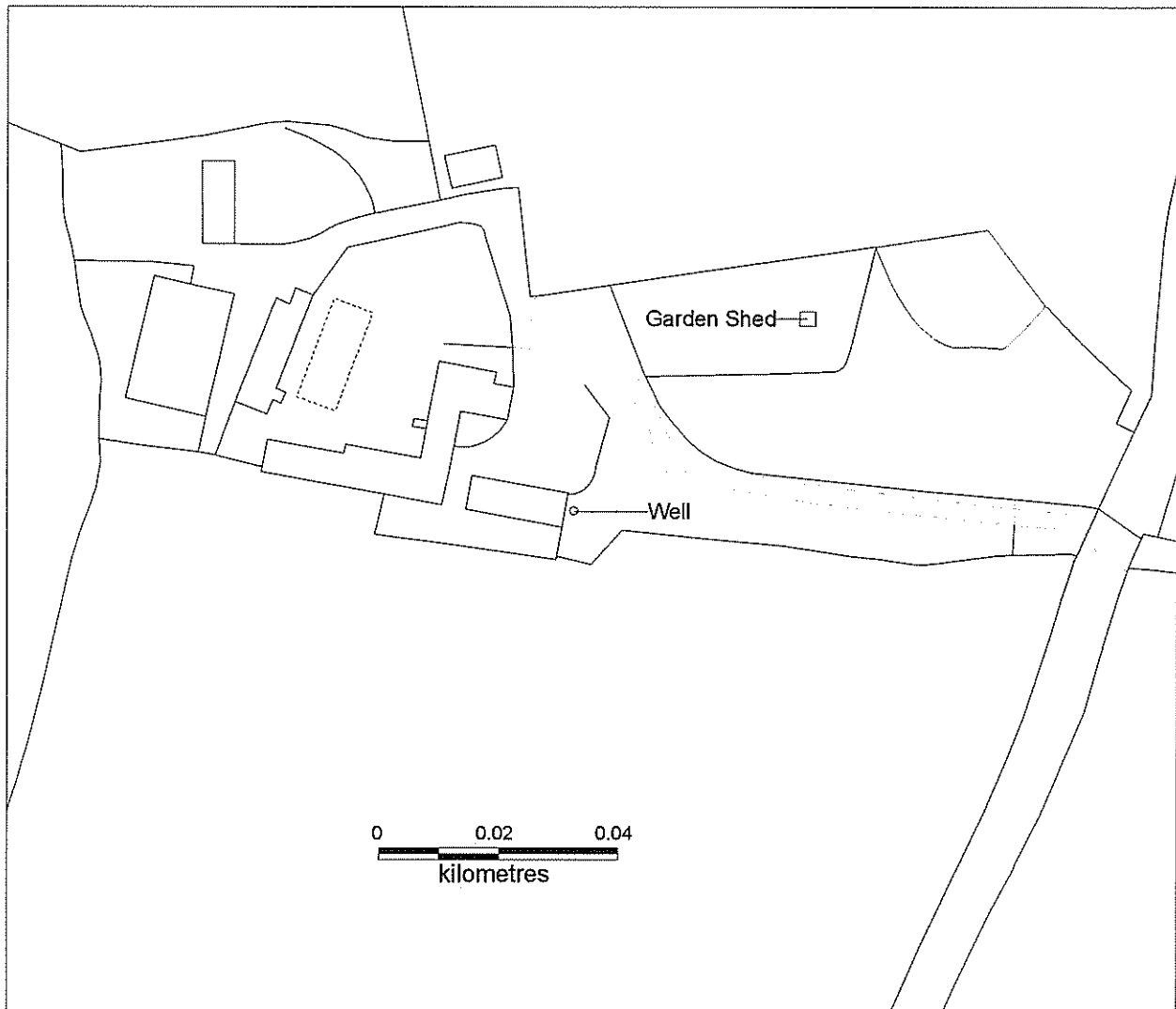
The present-day farm of Ysgubor-wen comprises nearly 50 acres above the Afon Nyfer, and the field pattern of irregular fields is largely unchanged from the tithe survey of 1843. The farm, named "Scyberwen" at this time was owned by James Bowen and occupied by a William Davies. The farmstead lies towards the southern end of the holding where the ground levels out above the river.

The tithe map drawing of 1843 shows a substantial building complex reached along a short farm trackway. The complex follows a general east-west alignment and is characterised by a number of annexes offset at right angles to a central "spine" of buildings. The buildings are arranged in such a way that a U-shape, opening eastwards defines the front of the farmstead. An adjoining U-shape range to the rear (west) probably defined the main farmyard area.

The 6 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of 1891 provides a more detailed depiction of the farmstead and the tithe map layout remains apparently unchanged at this time. Some clarification of detail shows all buildings arranged in a continuous range, with the exception of two detached buildings on the south and west sides of the farmyard. A garden enclosure and at least two ponds are seen in front of the buildings flanking the entrance trackway. This arrangement persists, largely unaltered on recent map sources.

Only one building which stands on the western side of the farmyard remains intact and unmodified today. Other traditional buildings here have either been modified or destroyed in advance of a major programme of rebuilding works, which has resulted in considerable alterations to the historic character of the farmstead.

Farm Map



produced from Ordnance Survey, Licence number: GD272825G)

Garden Shed

This small shed lies at the eastern end of the garden enclosure at Ysgubor-wen. It is absent from the 1891, 1908 and later map sources. This is more likely to result from mapping convention rather than its true absence. As a rule, all permanent buildings and objects whose plan covers an area of 8sq metres or more were recorded on the six inches to 1 mile and larger scale Ordnance Survey maps (Oliver, R 1993, 51). This building uses traditional building materials; stone rubble, slate and lime mortar bonds. These materials would indicate an early twentieth century date at the latest.

The shed is square in plan, and measures approximately 2.5 E-W by 2.5 N-S. It stands to a maximum height of around 2.5m with a pitched roof. Modern corrugated sheeting has replaced the original roof covering, which was of slate. The walls are of stone rubble construction; lime mortar bonded with roughly squared quoins.

Access is provided in the north wall through a wooden panel door. All other faces are blind with the exception of the west wall, which is pierced by a small glazed rectangular window, just below the eaves. The existing door and window openings appear to be primary features of the building. The roof timbers may also be original. Some of the original roof slates and ceramic ridge tiles now lean against the rear wall of the building. The floor is of rammed lime mortar and the building interior is whitewashed. There are few clues as to its original function. Its location in the garden enclosure could suggest storage for garden implements. Although a simple and unremarkable building, it is an important feature of the garden and is worthy of retention.



Plate 1- front (north) elevation of the garden shed.



Plate 2- west elevation of the garden shed.

Statement of Condition/ Proposed Works

The shed is currently redundant, although in a reasonable condition. Ivy growth on all faces of the building threatens to weaken lime mortar masonry bonds. The rubble walls are generally stable, although lime mortar bonds are washed out in places. Some stone has become displaced in the north wall by the door opening. The floor inside is becoming eroded and broken up.

The ivy growing up the south gable end of the building should be cut off at the roots, allowed to die and then removed. Stumps should be spot treated in order to prevent re-growth. This should be followed up by a programme of re-pointing and building consolidation in areas, where masonry bonds have been weakened by intrusive vegetation growth. Lime mortar should be used for re-pointing and masonry consolidation.

The landowner is keen to replace the original slate roof. This is to be welcomed as it would restore some of the lost historic character of the building. Original roof timbers should be retained as far as is practically possible. A desire to replace the floor has also been expressed. Any replacement materials should be compatible with those of the buildings original construction. In this instance lime mortar would be the preferred material.

Well

This well lies a few metres to the east of the farm buildings at Ysgubor-wen. It is circular, and stone rubble lined, approximately 1 metre wide and about 12 metres deep. It is absent from the 1891, 1907 and recent map sources, and may have been overlooked by the Ordnance Survey. Given the absence of any specific information on the well, it cannot be known when it was constructed. It could be contemporary with other elements of the farmstead, which are at least of a mid-nineteenth century date.



Plate 3- the well interior.

Statement of Condition/ Proposed Works

The stone rubble outline of the well is now capped with concrete at ground level. A slate slab now covers the opening. Nothing remains of the original well head.

The landowner is keen to undertake restoration works to the well, specifically by projecting the stone rubble lining a short distance above ground level. Following this, it is proposed that the well will be capped in the interests of safety.

We have no information on the original appearance of the well head, with which to inform a restoration project. In the absence of such information it is recommended that the well should be capped at ground level.

References

Oliver, R. 1993 Ordnance Survey Maps a concise guide for historians Charles Close Society, London

Ordnance Survey Old Series 1819 Sheet 40 NE

Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire Sheet VI SW

Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet VI SW

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1843 Nevern Parish

Ysgubor-wen

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/133
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11th December 2003

This report has been prepared by William Steele

Position: Archaeologist (Heritage Management)

Signature W. L. Steele Date 16/12/2003

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 16/12/03

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report