

# **Morvil W/13/4091**

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



**View to the south from inside an earthwork enclosure (PRN 1556) on Mynydd Morvil.**

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Morvil  
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

Morvil Farm lies in the community of Puncteston, at grid reference SN03663076. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The farm encompasses a range of land, from flattish valley bottom fields in the south, up to the unenclosed upland slopes of Mynydd Morvil in the north of the farm. The archaeology included within the farmland is similarly diverse, but is also exceptionally rich and important.

Morvil has a long history – Francis Jones describes a ‘former mansion’ which apparently stood 200yds due south of the parish church and which was a ‘seat of noblemen descended from Gwynfardd Dyfed’ during the Middle Ages (1996:p.233). The mansion is no longer visible, and it is not clear where it stood. However, if the description is accurate, it seems that the mansion would lie directly under the dismantled railway (PRN 49697) and this area has clearly undergone substantial disturbance during the construction of the railway embankment.

The current farmstead (PRN 49698) consists of a cowshed (PRN 49699), piggery (PRN 49700), stable/cartshed (PRN 49701) and the farmhouse itself (PRN 49702). These are arranged around a central farmyard, giving a very planned, regular feel to the farmstead. On the parish tithe map (1849), Morvil farmstead is seen as a loose cluster of buildings to the south of the parish church (PRN 7562). However, the present layout is seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1888, published 1891) so it is clear that a wholesale re-building of the farm took place in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The farm also includes the church of St John the Baptist. Although now de-consecrated, this was the parish church for Morvil parish. The current building (PRN 7562) is almost entirely 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the church has Medieval origins, and the churchyard (PRN 46838) contains two cross-inscribed stones (PRNs 1525 and 1526) which together form a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe235). These are probably early Medieval, with one (PRN 1525) being assigned a date somewhere in the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> century (Edwards,N: forthcoming).

Surrounding the churchyard, though visible mostly to the east and south, are a series of well-preserved earthworks representing a deserted settlement (PRN 1553). These are probably what remains of a late Medieval or post-Medieval village or hamlet clustered around the church itself. It is likely that, over time, the settlement shrank, and buildings were abandoned and deserted. The position of Morvil farmstead, as seen on the 1849 tithe map, suggests that the 19<sup>th</sup> century farm was a cluster of buildings from the earlier settlement which remained in use. Between 1849 and 1888 the rest of the buildings fell out of use, and Morvil Farm was entirely re-built in its current location.

The whole complex around the church (including the church, churchyard, inscribed stones and deserted settlement) is of exceptional archaeological interest. As well as the surviving above-ground remains, there is very high potential for further buried archaeological features to survive.

The slopes of Mynydd Morvil contain more evidence for deserted settlements. The stone footings of a long-hut (PRN 1523), possibly with an associated animal pen, stand on high, exposed

ground. Such remains are difficult to date, but the site is not seen on 19<sup>th</sup> century maps, and may represent an earlier shepherd's hut or shelter. A set of low earth and stone banks in the northeast of the farm mark out another deserted settlement (PRN 14344). This seems to comprise a small building, another feature (perhaps an animal pen), and associated enclosures. The whole area around, and including, the settlement is covered in narrow ridge and furrow earthworks, indicating that the area has been ploughed in the past. The site is again difficult to date, but whatever its date, it is a well-preserved example of a disused settlement, and its high level of preservation makes it important in the region. If it was known when this field was ploughed, then this would help to date the settlement since the ridge and furrow overlies the site.

Some possible traces of prehistoric land-use have also been identified on Mynydd Morvil. Two mounds, observed from aerial photographs, may be Bronze Age round barrows (PRNs 49703 and 49704). An enigmatic bank and ditch earthwork enclosure (PRN 1556) also survives in good condition.

Overall, Morvil Farm exhibits a density and diversity of archaeological sites and features which is quite remarkable. The farm is set within a landscape which has been used and re-used over a very long time-scale, and which still bears the physical evidence of much of this land-use.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.**

There is a huge amount of archaeological potential on this farm, and any changes of land-use which are proposed within Tir Gofal should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology before being carried out. At present, the upland sites (in the north of the farm) are all in a stable condition and their current management suits them well. The most immediately vulnerable site is the complex comprising the church, churchyard, inscribed stones and deserted settlement. It is important that management agreements recognise the inter-related nature of these features, and address the needs of the whole group.

### **Churchyard (PRN 46838), Church (PRN 7562), and Inscribed Stones (PRNs 1525 and 1526, SAM Pe235).**

These sites need to be treated as one, coherent complex and their management regimes should complement each other. The ideal management for the stones would be to maintain an even and undisturbed grass covering around it. It should also be ensured that the monuments remain visible, are not obscured by vegetation and do not sustain any damage from tree-branches falling or rubbing against them. No ground intrusive activities should take place around the stones. The same management recommendations also apply to the churchyard itself. Buried archaeology needs to be protected from damage, either caused by ground-intrusive activities or by scrub and tree roots.

The most practical way to manage the stones and the churchyard would probably be to institute a regime of light grazing. The churchyard has been recently cleared of scrub and vegetation, and it is important that this situation continues. The easiest way to achieve this may be to use the churchyard as a small 'paddock' for grazing. The churchyard would need to be fenced and gated for this to be feasible, and the fencing should be put in place as close to the boundary as possible, with minimum ground disturbance. No further ground intrusive activities should be carried out in the churchyard.

The area may need to be strimmed in order to eradicate nettles, but after this initial treatment a regime of light grazing should suffice in order to maintain an even grass covering. Any water or feed troughs, or associated piping, should be laid above-ground in order to avoid damaging buried archaeological remains.

Occasional checks should be made of the trees in the churchyard, and any overhanging or unstable branches should be removed to avoid them damaging the church building, the inscribed stones or any other grave monuments.

The church itself has also been maintained in a stable condition, and this should be continued. Materials and techniques which match the original construction of the church should be employed to carry out future repairs and maintenance work.

On the day of the site visit, the possibility was raised of using the church for agricultural purposes – perhaps as a lambing shed or similar. Bringing the building back into use in this way would help to ensure that it was maintained, and would therefore be encouraged. However, if livestock

were to be kept within the building, it would be desirable to cover the remaining tiled floor sections (preferably with rubber matting which would not cause damage to the tiles) and to situate animal pens off the tiles, in order to protect the remaining flooring from damage.

### **Deserted Settlement (PRN 1553)**

It is critical that no further ground intrusive activities take place within this area. There is clearly a substantial amount of buried archaeology still surviving, and any ground-breaking works will damage this important site.

The scrap which has been dumped across the site should be removed. Care should be taken that no damage is done to the earthworks or any surviving stonework whilst this is carried out, and work should only be done when the ground surface is dry, to avoid disturbance.

The ideal management for this site would be a regime of light grazing by sheep in order to maintain a smooth grass covering. There is no real problem with scrub or undergrowth, but some patches of nettles may have to be strimmed before stock are put in. Cattle should not be put in this field.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	1429	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03343149
<b>Site Type</b>	CASTLE?	<b>Period</b>	MEDIEVAL	

### Description

PRN 1429 relates to a 14<sup>th</sup> century abandoned castle which is marked on Rees' map of Wales and the Borders in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Rees, W:1932:SW sheet). Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps also record the site of a castle at this point.

On the ground, there are no signs of any remains which may have been associated with a castle site. However, there may be some confusion over the identity of this site, and it is likely that these records actually refer to an earthwork enclosure (PRN 1556), which may have been interpreted as the remains of a castle.

See also PRN 1539.

### Recommendations

See management recommendations for PRN 1556.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	1523	<b>Site Name</b>	MYNYDD MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03433141
<b>Site Type</b>	LONG HUT	<b>Period</b>	MEDIEVAL?; POST- MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A clear earthwork on open ground on Mynydd Morvil. The remains of a rectangular long hut about 5m x 3m are seen as low earth and stone banks. No internal divisions are visible. Adjacent to the west end of the long-hut is a sub-circular feature also picked out in stone. This may represent an animal pen.

The long hut stands in a very exposed location and has no convenient water supply. It is therefore unlikely to have been a permanent dwelling, and has been interpreted as a shepherd's hut (Sambrook,P:1997:p.13). This may have been used during the summer months, when livestock were taken up to the high ground and seasonal 'camps' (*hafotai*) were established.

### Recommendations

The site is under no threat and seems to be stable. The current management regime of light grazing suits it well and should be continued. No animal feeders should be placed in or near the site. A track runs just north of the site, and care should be taken that the track does not divert from its current route and encroach onto the land immediately surrounding this feature.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 1** A long hut (PRN 1523) on Mynydd Morvil. The rectangular feature in the foreground is the long hut, another feature immediately behind may represent the remains of an animal pen or similar.

<b>PRN</b>	1525	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03683071
<b>Site Type</b>	INSCRIBED STONE	<b>Period</b>	EARLY MEDIEVAL	<b>Site status</b>	SAM Pe235

### Description

A cross-inscribed stone set in Morvil churchyard (PRN 46838), one of two monuments (PRNs 1525 and 1526) which make up SAM Pe235. One side of the monument bears a carved cross inside a ring, and the stone itself has been shaped into a rough pillar. A hole about half-way down the stone indicates that it has been used in the past as a gatepost. It may not, therefore, be in its original position. It is in a good, stable condition.

The form of the cross indicates that the stone is early Medieval in date – perhaps 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> century (Edwards, N: forthcoming).

### Recommendations

The following management recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

The ideal management for this site would be to maintain an even and undisturbed grass covering around it. No ground intrusive activities should be carried out within the churchyard.

It should also be ensured that the monument remains visible, is not obscured by vegetation and that it does not sustain any damage from tree-branches falling or rubbing against it.

It is recommended that the churchyard is fenced off and used as a small ‘paddock’ for light grazing by lambs and sheep. This will help to maintain a smooth grass covering, and will also prevent scrub growth. For detailed comments see the management recommendations made for the churchyard (PRN 46838).

**Site Category** A



**Plate 2** *Cross inscribed stone (PRN 1525, SAM Pe235) in Morvil churchyard (PRN 46838).*



<b>PRN</b>	1526	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03683071
<b>Site Type</b>	INSCRIBED STONE	<b>Period</b>	EARLY MEDIEVAL?	<b>Site status</b>	SAM Pe235

### Description

A cross-inscribed stone of uncertain date, one of two inscribed stones (PRNs 1525 and 1526) which make up SAM Pe235. The stone may be unfinished – it is a rough, uneven shape, partly worked with a flat top and a triangular base. A simple cross is marked on one side only. The carving is very weathered and difficult to make out. The stone is in a stable condition, and stands in the churchyard (PRN 46838) associated with Morvil Parish church (PRN 7562).

The cross is not a typical early Medieval type, but the weathering suggests it is not modern. The date of the stone is unknown (Edwards,N: forthcoming).

### Recommendations

The following management recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

The ideal management for this site would be to maintain an even and undisturbed grass covering around it. No ground intrusive activities should be carried out within the churchyard.

It should also be ensured that the monument remains visible, is not obscured by vegetation and that it does not sustain any damage from tree-branches falling or rubbing against it.

It is recommended that the churchyard is fenced off and used as a small ‘paddock’ for light grazing by lambs and sheep. This will help to maintain a smooth grass covering, and will also prevent scrub growth. For detailed comments see the management recommendations made for the churchyard (PRN 46838).

**Site Category** A



**Plate 3** *Cross inscribed stone (PRN 1526, SAM Pe135) in Morvil churchyard (PRN 46838). The cross is very weathered and faint.*

<b>PRN</b>	1539	<b>Site Name</b>	MYNYDD MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03353149
<b>Site Type</b>	CAIRN?; ENCLOSURE?	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

#### **Description**

PRN 1539 relates to a site which was recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1964: “[In] about 1900 there were apparently the remains of a small cairn within the lines of an enclosure” (OS:1964:SN03 SW10). At the location specified there is now no trace of any earthwork. However, there is some confusion over this site, and the description given sounds as though it fits the earthwork enclosure located around 60m south (PRN 1556).  
See also PRN 1429.

#### **Recommendations**

See management recommendations for PRN 1556.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	1543	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03573083
<b>Site Type</b>	CROPMARK	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

#### **Description**

A cropmark was noted on aerial photographs and is recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record. However, it seems likely that the mark resulted from agricultural processes, and nothing was seen on the ground.

#### **Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply. If any finds are made in this field, or if anything further is known of this site, then please contact Cambria Archaeology.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	1553	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03713068
<b>Site Type</b>	DESERTED SETTLEMENT	<b>Period</b>	MEDIEVAL?; POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A set of earthworks from a well preserved deserted settlement. The settlement is probably associated with the church (PRN 7562) and lies to the south and east of the churchyard (PRN 46838). Aerial photographs taken in 1955 show further earthworks to the west of the churchyard, but these are now gone and modern agricultural buildings have taken their place.

The main earthworks are separated from the churchyard by a road, and lie in a small pasture field. The wall footings for several distinct buildings can be made out, as well as mounds which may indicate further buildings and a hollow routeway running through the middle of the site. The whole site seems to be surrounded by a substantial earth and stone boundary with a gateway on the west side. A large stone gatepost survives here, still standing in place, and a further stone gatepost is lying a short distance away.

At the south of the site is a series of stone and earth field boundaries, standing up to 0.9m tall and marking out very small, roughly square paddocks. These may have been some kind of sheep folds or animal pens.

It is difficult to date this deserted settlement. Some clues can be gained from the tithe map (1849, Morvil Parish) which shows a number of buildings to the south of the church. These are marked on the tithe apportionment as the homestead for Morvil farm. (The current farmstead, PRN 49698, with its planned courtyard arrangement, lies just northwest of the church and is not on the tithe map.) The buildings on the tithe map probably equate to some of the better preserved and clearer building traces on the ground. However the earthworks directly east of the church, and any surviving traces of those to the west, would appear to be earlier – maybe substantially.

It seems likely that there was some form of Medieval settlement at Morvil. Francis Jones comments that:

*“During the Middle Ages, Morfil was a seat of noblemen descended from Gwynfardd Dyfed...The first of the family to use the name Lloyd [Llwyd] was Ieuan Llwyd...the name was borne by twelve generations of his descendants...the last in direct descent was Elizabeth Lloyd, daughter and heiress of Thomas Lloyd of Grove, who married in 1725 William Owen of Landshipping”* (1996:p.133)

The ‘Morfil’ he refers to is the now-lost mansion house (PRN 17307) but it is an indication that Morvil was settled and occupied during the Medieval and immediately post-Medieval periods. The probable early date of the church is another indication of early settlement, and the earthworks seen today probably represent a late Medieval or post-Medieval ‘village’ or hamlet clustered around the church itself. It seems that, over time, this shrank – houses were abandoned and deserted, and Morvil farmstead, as seen on the 1849 tithe map, consisted of the buildings from the settlement which remained in use. Between 1849 and 1891 the rest of the buildings fell out of use, and Morvil was re-built in its current location.

The deserted settlement is currently in a fair condition. Although the surviving earthworks are very visible, they are cut by the road and are isolated from the church and churchyard. More seriously, there has been substantial disturbance to some parts of the site: a large silage clamp has

been cut at the north end and modern buildings west of the church have destroyed other earthworks. There is also some scrap dumped on the site.

**Recommendations**

It is critical that no further ground intrusive activities take place within this area. There is clearly a substantial amount of buried archaeology still surviving, and any ground-breaking works will damage this important site.

The scrap which has been dumped across the site should be removed. Care should be taken that no damage is done to the earthworks or any surviving stonework whilst this is carried out, and work should only be done when the ground surface is dry, to avoid disturbance.

The ideal management for this site would be a regime of light grazing by sheep in order to maintain a smooth grass covering. There is no real problem with scrub or undergrowth, but some patches of nettles may have to be strimmed before stock are put in. Cattle should not be put in this field.

**Site Category**    A

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<b>PRN</b>	1556	<b>Site Name</b>	MYNYDD MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03363142
<b>Site Type</b>	EARTHWORK	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN		

### Description

A roughly semi-circular bank and ditch earthwork, around 60m in diameter. The bank stands up to around 0.6m in height but the exterior ditch is more slight, and is only visible for parts of the circumference. A field boundary roughly marks the eastern edge of the site, but overlies the earthwork at its north end. No trace of the feature can be seen continuing to the east, and it is unknown if it was originally circular, or whether the semi-circle that survives is, in fact, the extent of it. At the centre of the site is what appears to be a rock outcrop. Although small, it is a noticeable feature of the enclosure, and it is possible that the bank was deliberately constructed around it.

There has been some confusion over this site in the past, and there are three records in the SMR which probably relate to it. PRN 1429 relates to a castle site which was identified on William Rees' map of 14<sup>th</sup> century Wales and the Borders (Rees,W:1932:SW sheet). He claims this location for an abandoned minor castle at that time. It is possible that this earthwork (PRN 1556) is the site to which he was referring, and the site is marked as 'Castell (site of)' on the 1891 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps.

In 1964 the Ordnance Survey recorded: "*About 1900 there were apparently the remains of a small cairn within the lines of an enclosure*" (OS:1964:SN03 SW10). This recorded site was allocated a number – PRN 1539 – but the description does sound as though it relates, again, to the earthwork site (PRN 1556). It is interesting that the Ordnance Survey noted a 'small cairn' – this may imply that there were more earthworks at that time than are visible now.

The date or function of this enclosure is unknown. It may be related to the long hut (PRN 1523), perhaps used for stock – a pen or fold. However, it may be considerably earlier – small enclosures are often thought to be Bronze or Iron Age in date, and if the site did indeed contain a cairn, that may support the idea of a prehistoric date.

### Recommendations

The site is under no threat and seems to be stable. The current management regime of light grazing suits it well and should be continued. No animal feeders should be placed in or near the site. A track runs just north of the site, and care should be taken that the track does not divert from its current route and encroach onto the land immediately surrounding this feature.

**Site Category** B

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<b>PRN</b>	7562	<b>Site Name</b>	MORFIL; MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03683072
<b>Site Type</b>	CHURCH	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A small stone parish church, almost entirely re-built in the 19th century. However the current church is on a much earlier site, dating back to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century (Ludlow,N:2003). It is set within a roughly circular churchyard (PRN 46838) which contains two inscribed crosses (PRNs 1525 and 1526, SAM Pe235). These are thought to be Medieval in date, with one (PRN 1525) perhaps dating to the 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century AD (Edwards, N:forthcoming).

The church building is now derelict but is in a stable condition. The roof on the main building is generally watertight, although a few slates are missing, but the porch roof has now gone. Most of the internal fixtures are also gone, although a large stone font remains, as does the alter rail and some sections of a tiled floor remain, marking where the aisle ran.

The church is not in use at present, although it has been used for storage in previous years.

### Recommendations

The owners have been maintaining the church in a stable condition, and this should be continued. Materials and techniques which match the original construction of the church should be employed to carry out future repairs and maintenance work.

On the day of the site visit, the possibility was raised of using the church for agricultural purposes – fencing the churchyard and using it for grazing, and maybe using the church for a lambing shed or similar. Bringing the building back into use in this way would help to ensure that it was maintained, and would therefore be encouraged. However, if livestock were to be kept within the building, it would be desirable to cover the remaining tiled floor sections (preferably with rubber matting) and to situate animal pens off the tiles, in order to protect the remaining flooring from damage.

**Site Category** B



**Plates 4 and 5** *The interior of the church (PRN 7562). A few original features remain – the main door, the stone font by the door, and some of the aisle floor tiles (left) and the altar rail (right).*



<b>PRN</b>	14344	<b>Site Name</b>	MYNYDD MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN04303120
<b>Site Type</b>	DESERTED SETTLEMENT	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL?		

### **Description**

The remains of a deserted settlement lie on southeast facing slopes of Mynydd Morvil. This is an earthwork site, with probable enclosure walls and a possible building foundation picked out in earth and stone banks, around 0.25m high. Aerial photographs clearly show the form of the site. The most immediately noticeable feature is a roughly rectangular enclosure. To the east of this is a much smaller curved shape, marked out by stone footings. On the aerial photographs this appears to be circular, but on the ground it has a much more 'squared' feeling, though with rounded corners. These two features are linked by a small 'passage', again marked out by stone footings.

Another enclosure, just to the north of the first, is marked out by earth and stone banks. These appear to be relict field boundaries – they are lower and wider than other earthworks on the site. The whole site, and the area surrounding it, is covered with narrow ridge and furrow earthworks so the area has clearly been ploughed in the past. It is unknown when this was carried out. It is noticeable that the ridge and furrow inside the main enclosure runs in the opposite direction to that outside the enclosure – it has clearly been cultivated separately at some point.

There are several possible interpretations of this site, and the date, especially, is open to question. One interpretation is that the site is prehistoric – a round hut with associated enclosed land. Another possibility is that the site is Medieval or immediately post-Medieval – a longhut with an animal pen (the circular/sub-square feature and the 'passage' linking to the enclosure) and a small enclosure used for growing vegetables.

The site may also represent 'squatter' settlement of common land. Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century the rural population grew, and more land was taken into arable cultivation. Much of what was not in use was marginal or waste land, including many of the upland commons. As Acts of Parliament enclosed larger and larger areas, small parcels of this waste and common ground were seized by local people for their houses and fields. The earthworks inside the enclosure could then be interpreted as the remains of 'lazy beds', used normally for growing potatoes (Cadw:2003:p.6-7).

Whatever its date, this site is a well-preserved example of a disused settlement, and its high level of preservation makes it important in the region. If it was known when this field was ploughed, then this would help to date the settlement since the ridge and furrow overlies the site.

### **Recommendations**

If anything further is known about this site, then please contact Cambria Archaeology. The site is well-preserved and should be maintained in its current condition. No ground intrusive works should be carried out in the vicinity of the site, and animal feeders should not be placed near the earthworks. The ridge and furrow earthworks in the field surrounding the settlement should not be disturbed.

**Site Category** B



**Plate 6** Aerial photograph showing the shape of the deserted settlement (PRN 14344)  
Mm Ap Oblique/DAT/James,TA/1989/AP89-184.31

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<b>PRN</b>	17307	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03663056 ?
<b>Site Type</b>	MANSION	<b>Period</b>	MEDIEVAL?; POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

Francis Jones comments that Morvil is:

*“Now a farmstead on the lower slopes of Mynydd Morfil...The former mansion stood about two hundred yards lower on the slope, due south of the parish church. Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century it became a ruin, and only a few mounds and stones remain to indicate the site.”*  
(1996:p.233)

There is now no clear sign of the mansion house – the ‘mounds and stones’ referred to may be the deserted settlement (PRN 1553) which lies south and east of the church (PRN 7562).

If the measurement is taken to be approximately right, then 200yds due south of the church would place the site of the mansion almost exactly on the dismantled railway line (PRN 49697). This area must have been subject to considerable disturbance when the line was constructed, so any remains are likely to have been obscured by those works.

### Recommendations

No specific management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	18362	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03213138
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<b>Site Type</b>	QUARRY	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL
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**Description**

A substantial quarry, semi-overgrown, but with some sheer rock faces still visible. The quarry is marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map.

**Recommendations**

Maintain in current condition. The quarry should not be infilled or used for dumping.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	18363	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03393050
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<b>Site Type</b>	STEPPING STONES	<b>Period</b>	MODERN?	<b>Site status</b>	
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**Description**

A set of stepping stones are marked on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map. Their current condition is not known, and the site was not visited on this occasion.

**Recommendations**

If these stone survive they should be maintained in their current location, in a useable condition wherever possible.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	46838	<b>Site Name</b>	MORFIL; MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03693071
<b>Site Type</b>	CHURCHYARD	<b>Period</b>	EARLY MEDIEVAL?		

### **Description**

A small churchyard with possible early medieval origins. The churchyard is associated with Morvil parish church (PRN 7562), the church of St John the Baptist. Today's church building is probably 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the site dates to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

The churchyard is raised up to 2m above the surrounding ground level on the south side.

Although it is now roughly circular in shape, the tithe map (Morvil parish, 1839) shows it as being square with rounded edges – the circular shape appears to have come about when the road running along the east side of the churchyard was straightened (Ludlow, N:2003). It is likely that the trees which line the east boundary were also planted at this time.

The churchyard contains two cross-inscribed stones (PRNs 1525 and 1526) which make up SAM Pe235. At least one of these is thought to be early Medieval in date – maybe 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> century. It also contains a substantial number of other gravestones – those to the north of the church building seem to be generally newer than those to the south.

To the east and south of the churchyard is a set of earthworks comprising a deserted settlement (PRN 1553) of uncertain date. This was probably a nucleated settlement around the church.

### **Recommendations**

The churchyard is potentially of great importance because of its probable early date and because of the two cross inscribed stones (SAM Pe235) which are contained within it. The following management recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

At present, the churchyard is relatively clear of scrub and vegetation, and it is important that this situation continues. The easiest way to achieve this may be to use the churchyard as a small 'paddock' for grazing. The churchyard would need to be fenced and gated for this to be feasible, and the fencing should be put in place as close to the boundary as possible, with minimum ground disturbance. No further ground intrusive activities should be carried out in the churchyard.

The area may need to be trimmed in order to eradicate nettles, but after this initial treatment a regime of light grazing should suffice in order to maintain an even grass covering. Any water or feed troughs, or associated piping, should be laid above-ground in order to avoid damaging buried archaeological remains.

Occasional checks should be made of the trees in the churchyard, and any overhanging or unstable branches should be removed to avoid them damaging the church building, the inscribed stones or any other grave monuments.

**Site Category** A

<b>PRN</b>	49697	<b>Site Name</b>	GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03523060
<b>Site Type</b>	RAILWAY	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

#### **Description**

A well-preserved earthwork marking the line of the dismantled Great Western Railway. By the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, GWR had lines running throughout the West Country, Wales and the Midlands.

The embankment is now grass covered and appears to be in a stable condition.

#### **Recommendations**

The site should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature. No ground-intrusive activities (including tree-planting) should take place along the length of the earthwork.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	49698	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03663076
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

Morvil farmstead consists of a cowshed (PRN 49699), piggery (PRN 49700), combination building (PRN 49701) and the farmhouse itself (PRN 49702). These are arranged around a central farmyard, giving a very planned, regular feel to the farmstead. On the parish tithe map (1849), Morvil farmstead is seen as a loose cluster of buildings to the south of the parish church (PRN 7562). However, the present layout is seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1888, published 1891) so it is clear that a wholesale re-building of the farm took place in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Each of the buildings in the yard is very similar in appearance, being of rubble stone construction and slate roofed. The only decoration apparent on the buildings is the occasional use of simple brick arches above openings. The regular square farmyard implies that all the buildings were constructed at once, as part of a layout designed to make agriculture easier and more efficient. This notion of efficiency is seen in the general plan of the farm, and also specifically in the combination farm building which houses stables, cartsheds, a granary, dovecot and kennels under one roof.

The farmstead stands on a much older site – Jones (1996:p.133) mentions that there was a house at Morvil [Morfil] in the Middle Ages (PRN 17307) and the parish church, which lies only a few metres southeast, probably had medieval origins. A deserted settlement lies just east (PRN 1553) and prior to its re-building Morvil Farm probably represented a contraction of this settlement into a single farm. When the farm was re-built, it seems likely that stone from the earlier buildings was used – the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the local belief is that stone from the earlier mansion house (PRN 17307) was used to construct the current farm.

Morvil farmstead is of interest on several levels – it represents a good survival of a typical 19<sup>th</sup> century improved farmstead, the buildings have group value, especially in association with the nearby parish church, and it also represents a continuity of settlement on what is a very old site.

### **Recommendations**

Recommendations for individual buildings are given under the relevant PRNs. It is important that any works on the farmstead retain the coherent appearance of the yard – no works should be undertaken which will significantly impact on the appearance or character of any single building, or of the farmyard itself.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49699	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03643076
<b>Site Type</b>	COWSHED	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

An agricultural building, probably a cowshed, lying on the west side of Morvil farmstead (PRN 49698). This building seems to have been constructed between 1849 and 1888, part of a wholesale re-building of Morvil.

It is a long, low building constructed of rubble stone bound with lime mortar, and roofed with slate. Irregularly spaced doorways face into the farmyard, along with a number of small windows – some openings are picked out with brick arches above them. Inside, it seems that the north end of was probably originally lofted, though this does not seem to run along the length of the building. The combination of less windows at the south end, and no loft, may indicate that the south portion of the building was used as a dairy or milking parlour.

In general, the building is in good condition and in use. However, the roof at the rear of the building (the west side) is missing a number of slates, and some of the timbers may also need to be replaced.

The cowshed is an integral part of the planned layout of Morvil farmstead. The significance of the farm is greatly increased since all the buildings survive in reasonable condition.

The landowner has expressed an interest in re-roofing this building through Tir Gofal.

### **Recommendations**

The prospect of re-roofing is a very welcome one since it would ensure the longer term survival of the building. Work should be carried out with care, and as many of the original slates should be re-used as is practical. Where this is not possible, new slates should match the originals as closely as possible, and should be laid using the same technique as the existing slates.

Similarly, any new timbers which are needed should be modelled closely on the existing timbers, and replacement of timbers should be avoided unless strictly necessary.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	49700	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03653075
<b>Site Type</b>	PIGGERY	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

A single storey piggery, running along the south side of Morvil farmstead (PRN 49698) and facing north, into the farmyard.

The piggery has three doorways opening out into the yard. It is constructed of the same rubble stone as the rest of the farmstead but the openings are directly underneath the eaves so there is no decoration around them as seen on the cowshed (PRN 49699) or the stables in the combination farm building (PRN 49701). The roof is of slate.

A brick chimney in the centre of the piggery indicates the presence of a boiling room within the piggery. These were used for the preparation of swill and animal feeds. Pigs were often fed on the waste from the dairy, and in planned farmyards it is very common to have the piggery and dairy as close together as possible (Darley,G:1981:p.87). In this case, the piggery is next to the cowshed (PRN 49699), and this may have housed a dairy and/or milking parlour at its south end. The building is currently in good condition, and the roof appears to be sound.

The piggery is an integral part of the planned layout of Morvil farmstead. The significance of the farm is greatly increased since all the buildings survive in reasonable condition.

### **Recommendations**

The building is well maintained, and care should be taken that future repairs continue to use materials and techniques which match as closely as possible those used in the original construction.

**Site Category** C





**Plate 7** *Piggery (PRN 49700). Part of the planned farmyard at Morvil (PRN 49698).*

<b>PRN</b>	49701	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03673076
<b>Site Type</b>	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	POST- MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A farm building forming the east side of the farmyard at Morvil (PRN 49698). The building houses stables at its north end, with a granary overhead accessed by a flight of external steps on the north gable. A small kennel is built in under the steps. The middle section of the building is single storey, and may house another stable and a single cartshed bay, or perhaps a tack and feed room and a cartshed. At the south end, also single storey, the building has a double cartshed, and a dovecot built into the south gable end.

In construction, the building closely resembles many of the other buildings on the yard being of rubble stone with lime mortar, slate-roofed, and having some of the openings picked out with brick decoration. It appears to be in good condition.

This building is an integral part of the planned layout of Morvil farmstead. The significance of the farm is greatly increased since all the buildings survive in reasonable condition.

#### **Recommendations**

The building is well maintained, and care should be taken that future repairs continue to use materials and techniques which match as closely as possible those used in the original construction.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 8** *Stables at the north end of the combination farm building (PRN 49701). The upper storey probably housed a granary, accessed by steps in the north gable.*

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<b>PRN</b>	49702	<b>Site Name</b>	MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN03663078
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMHOUSE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

**Description**

Morvil farmhouse, lying on the north side of the farmstead (PRN 49698) and facing into the farmyard.

Morvil farmstead does not appear in its current form on the tithe map of 1849, but by 1888 (when the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map was surveyed) the farmstead had taken its current shape. The farmhouse is stone-built and slate roofed. It is in good condition and inhabited

**Recommendations**

Since the house is inhabited as a dwelling it lies outside the remit of the Tir Gofal scheme. No management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	49703	<b>Site Name</b>		<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN04003135
<b>Site Type</b>	ROUND BARROW?	<b>Period</b>	BRONZE AGE		

**Description**

The site of a probable round barrow some 12 -14m in diameter. The site was initially identified

through aerial photographs (RCAHMW:935007/45) and it seems to be associated with another round barrow just to the west (PRN 49704).

The mound has some damage – a hollowed out ‘scoop’ in the top has revealed the stone interior. The whole area is also covered with ridge and furrow earthworks (PRN 49707), indicating that it has been ploughed at some point in the past.

**Recommendations**

The site is under no immediate threat, and should be maintained in its existing condition. No ground intrusive works should be carried out in the vicinity of the site and the ridge and furrow earthworks in the field surrounding the barrows should not be disturbed.

Light grazing will help to keep any scrub under control, and will maintain an even grass covering.

**Site Category**    B

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**PRN** 49704 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN03933134

**Site Type** ROUND  
BARROW? **Period** BRONZE  
AGE

**Description**

A probable roundbarrow, around 11m in diameter. This low mound is mostly turf covered, but damage to the northwest side has revealed a stone construction. The site was initially identified through aerial photographs (RCAHMW:935007/45) and it seems to be associated with another round barrow just to the east (PRN 49703).

**Recommendations**

The site is under no immediate threat, and should be maintained in its existing condition. No ground intrusive works should be carried out in the vicinity of the site and the ridge and furrow earthworks (PRN 49707) in the field surrounding the barrows should not be disturbed.

Light grazing will help to keep any scrub under control, and will maintain an even grass covering

**Site Category** B



**Plate 9** *View of a possible round barrow (PRN 49703) – picture taken from the site of the other possible barrow (PRN 49704).*

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**PRN** 49705 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN03693170

**Site Type** COTTAGE? **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

**Description**

A small enclosure containing a building – probably a cottage – is marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. Neither the building nor the enclosure are seen on the tithe map, so would seem to be later than 1839.

The site was not visited on this occasion, and is in an unknown condition.

**Recommendations**

Cambria Archaeology would appreciate any information about this site.

Any above-ground remains should be maintained in a stable condition, and should not be disturbed. The site should not be subject to any ground intrusive activities.

**Site Category** D

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**PRN** 49706 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN02783109

**Site Type** COTTAGE **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

**Description**

A 'cottage and garden' are marked on the 1839 tithe map and apportionment. The site was not visited on this occasion, but modern Ordnance Survey mapping suggests that the building is still in use.

It is not known if this building is included within the Tir Gofal application.

**Recommendations**

Traditional buildings should be maintained using materials and techniques which match the original construction of the building.

**Site Category** D

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<b>PRN</b>	49707	<b>Site Name</b>	MYNYDD MORVIL	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN04133135
<b>Site Type</b>	RIDGE AND FURROW	<b>Period</b>	MEDIEVAL?; POST- MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

An area of ridge and furrow earthworks covering part of the slopes of Mynydd Morvil. Both broad and narrow rig are seen, and the earthworks do not all run in the same directions. This probably implies that the ground has been ploughed on a number of occasions in the past. Ridge and furrow is important evidence for past land use, especially where, as in this situation, it occurs in conjunction with deserted settlements (eg PRN 14344).

### **Recommendations**

The earthworks should not be disturbed, and should remain as visible features. Maintain as grazing pasture.

**Site Category** C

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## **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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## Morvil Farm

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation




Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4091

Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN


National Grid Reference SN03663076

-  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

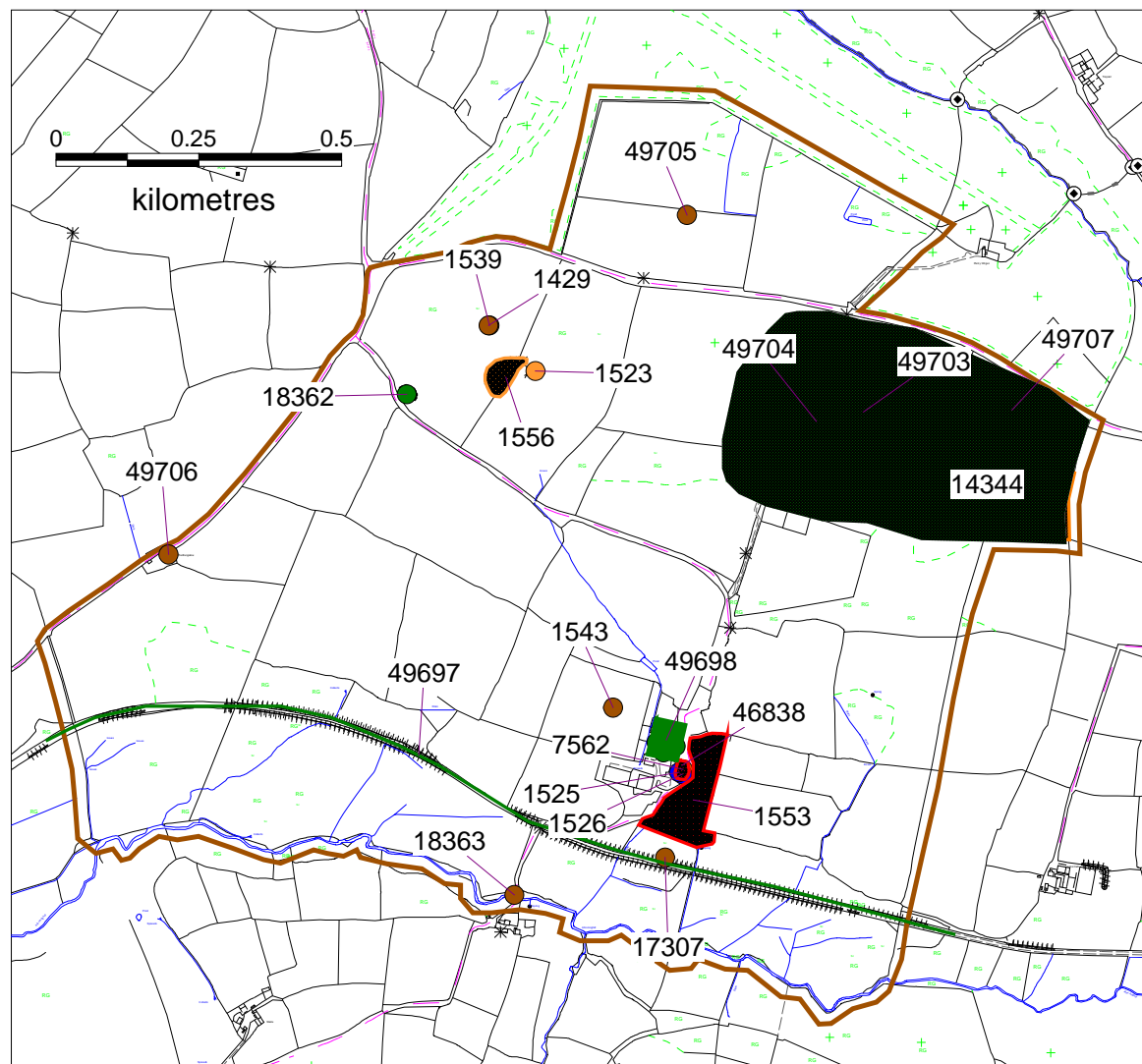
### Site Category C - Local Importance

-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

### Site Category D - Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition



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Morvil Farmstead and Church  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4091  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN  
 National Grid Reference SN03663076

 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

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**Morvil  
W/13/4091**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/118**

**November 2003**

This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

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