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WINDMILL PARK

W/13/3900

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report Call Out



Report No. 2003/111

Report Prepared for:
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/111
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Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report
Call Out

By

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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

Windmill Park lies at grid reference SM81031106, in the community of Marloes and St Brides. The farm comprises two land holdings, W/13/3900 and W/13/3900/a. The farmstead itself is located in the first of these holdings, and it was this holding which was visited by Cambria Archaeology on the 16th October, 2003.

Windmill Park lies in a landscape which has changed little since the end of the 19th century – the present-day pattern of dispersed farms set in medium-sized, regular fields is one which is seen on the 1891 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps. Windmill Park was a part of the Kensington Estate, and the layout of the farm buildings suggests that it was a farm of considerable social standing – the buildings are arranged around a courtyard, and the house is offset to the east in a deliberate separation of the house from the working farmyard.

The farmland consists primarily of improved land, gently sloping down to the Connermoor stream which forms the east boundary, and down to St Brides Haven on the west side. The farm encompasses a variety of archaeological features, only a few of which were addressed during this visit. Only those specifically visited on this occasion are marked on the attached map – other sites identified from the Sites and Monuments Record are marked on the map attached to the Historic Environment 1 (HE1) report.

Of primary concern for Windmill Park farm is the management of a small, probably Iron Age enclosure (PRN 3140) which lies in the northeast of the farm. The site is still visible as an earthwork, but is seriously denuded by ploughing and is still under cultivation. During the course of the visit a further, possible earthwork site (PRN 49193) was identified near to the cliffs at St Brides Haven (SM 80391114). This feature is very overgrown and may be natural, but it does appear to be a similar size and shape to the enclosure.

Windmill Park is also notable for lying in an area with a concentration of recorded burnt mound sites. Burnt mounds are normally to be found on fairly low-lying, marginal ground, often within 100m of a stream or spring (Manning and Crane:1998:p.3). These sites consist of accumulations of burnt (fire-crazed) stones, ash and charcoal with hearths and/or some form of trough or basin capable of holding water, either within the mound or adjacent to it. The water in the trough could then be heated as the hot stones were thrown into it. The stones were removed and discarded, and it is these, along with debris from the fire, which form the mound. The size of the mound varies greatly from small examples under 0.5m high and less than 10m across to larger sites which exceed 3m in height and 35m across. Most are best interpreted as sauna baths of some kind, although a few might have been used as cooking sites. Four possible burnt mound sites were recorded on the HE 1 report for Windmill Park (PRNs 3134,3135,3136,3137).

Statement of Condition

PRN 3134: Burnt Mound

Site Category: D

This burnt mound was originally noted in the early twentieth century. A slight mound was found on this field visit, immediately next to the stream on the west bank. The mound seemed to consist of blackened earth and some stone, but the whole area has a very humic, dark soil which may be confused for signs of burning. Several blackened stones were observed eroding out of the stream side – again, it is not clear if these are burnt, or stained by dark organic matter.

The site is in an area of dense vegetation, mostly scrub and brambles.

PRN 3135: Burnt Mound

Site Category: D

This burnt mound was located in 1994 and is described as being an oval shape, around 11m x 5m, and 0.3m high. Auguring revealed some charcoal and burnt stone, but also a high percentage of dark, organic soil matter.

The site lies 6m to the east of the Connermoor stream which marks the edge of Windmill Park farm. It is consequently outside the farm boundary and was not located on this field visit.

PRN 3136: Burnt Mound

Site Category: D

This burnt mound lies in an area which is very densely overgrown with scrub and brambles. It was first noted in the early 20th century, and the location was given as being the west side of a stream in a narrow valley. The site was not found during a 1994 survey, or on this field visit.

PRN 3137: Burnt Mound

Site Category: D

This site is recorded as lying just east of an irrigation pond, and near to a spring. Although the small valley to the south of the pond was considerably disturbed when the pond was created, the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that the area around to the east, around the burnt mound, was little affected.

A mound was observed in approximately the right location, lying in a patch of rough ground. It is under a dense covering of gorse, and its nature is not clear – it may be natural, or could be an overgrown clearance cairn relating to earlier agricultural use of the surrounding fields. There was no obvious evidence for burnt stone or earth and it seems unlikely that this is a burnt mound.

PRN 3140: Defended Enclosure.

Site Category: B

This site is visible as a circular, raised area within an arable field. It is around 35 - 40m in diameter, with a slight hollow in the centre, and traces of a bank surrounding it. The banks stand up to around 0.4m at their highest points, but they are very spread and consequently give the appearance of being much lower. It is unclear whether there is an entrance into this enclosure – the Ordnance Survey description of 1965 comments that the site is ploughed down, but with a probable entrance on the east side.

The site is probably an Iron Age defended enclosure (c.600BC – 100AD). These sites are normally in easily defensible locations, often with clear views in most directions. They may have been dwelling places, which could be protected if the need arose. No other, associated earthworks were observed.

The enclosure is in a field which is regularly ploughed and used for both cereal and root crops. It is very denuded and repeated ploughing has spread the material from the banks, obscuring any details of the enclosure's form and making it difficult to see from a distance.



Plate 1 *The site of the defended enclosure. It is just visible as a very slightly raised area in the field, against the skyline.*



Plate 2 *View to the northeast, standing inside the enclosure. The bank surrounding the site is visible as a line of paler green in the middle distance.*

PRN 49193 – Earthwork?

Site Category: D

A possible earthwork was observed near to the cliffs just north of St Brides Haven. The feature lies in an area of rough ground, passed on the west side by a footpath which runs along the cliffs. It is now very overgrown, with impenetrable gorse, so it was not possible to clearly establish the shape or nature of the site. It appears to be a rock outcrop, roughly circular or oval and some 45m in diameter. From a slight distance it can be seen that the top of the outcrop is very level – possibly artificially so, through some embanking on the north side. The top of the feature has a hollowed-out, ‘scooped’ appearance, and there may be traces of banks around the edges of the hollow. There is also a definite depression just to the south of the feature, which is marked on the 1875 Ordnance Survey map as a pond. However, it does not appear to be fed by any stream or spring – it may have been a dew pond, allowing livestock to use the ground for rough grazing. There are several possible explanations for this feature:

1. It is a natural rock outcrop.
2. It is a quarry site – the feature was marked on the 1875 map as ‘old quarry’, and this may explain the hollowed centre of the rock.
3. It is an earlier earthwork – perhaps an enclosure similar to that seen in the north of the farm (PRN 3140). The Ordnance Survey, in 1959, commented that an earlier survey had identified ‘two raths near Halfway Rock’. No further location details are given by the Ordnance Survey, nor were the two sites definitely identified.



Plate 3 *The possible earthwork site, viewed from the northeast. Note the very level appearance of the top of the feature.*

Management Recommendations

PRNs 3134 – 3137: Burnt Mounds

These sites are all in areas which are not under cultivation, and there do not appear to be any immediate threats to their continued survival. No ground intrusive works should be carried out within 5m of the sites. Any clearance of the vegetation around PRNs 3134 – 3136 should be carried out with care, and with as little ground disturbance as possible. Please contact Cambria Archaeology prior to carrying out any works in the area along the Connermoor stream.

PRN 3140: Enclosure

This site has suffered badly from ploughing, and has been used (maybe intermittently) for cultivation since at least the 1950s. It has been used recently for root-crops. Considerable damage will already have been done to any buried archaeology, and there is little that can be done now to aid the preservation of below-ground remains. However, future ploughing will undoubtedly have an adverse effect on the banks which survive above-ground. The soil is very friable and quite stony, making it easy to move – every time the site is ploughed, the banks will spread a bit further and become even less visible until they are eventually totally levelled.

Ideally, the site should be taken out of cultivation and allowed to revert to pasture. Regular grazing should ensure that a smooth, even turf covering is maintained and provided the site is protected from erosion (avoiding over-stocking, and not placing animal feeders on or near it) its future survival should be ensured. It may be possible to divide the field in half, using the southern half (containing the earthwork) for grazing and the northern half for arable.

PRN 49193: Earthwork?

Since the nature of this site is unclear, Cambria Archaeology would appreciate any further information about it. If any vegetation clearance or gorse control is to be carried out in the future, please contact Cambria Archaeology. Observation of the site during and after clearance works should help to clarify what the site is, and will allow informed decisions to be made about its future management.

References

Manning,A and Crane,P:1998: *The Burnt Mounds of Dyfed – the 1997-8 Archaeological Assessment Survey*.

Ordnance Survey 1875 Pembrokeshire XXXII.2

Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXXII.NW

Ordnance Survey record cards:

SM81SW 9 (PRNs 3141,2981),

SM81SW 8 (PRN 3140),

SM81SW 4 (PRN 3134 – 3136)



Rigg,J:1977: *Pembrokeshire Earthworks and Enclosures*

Windmill Park

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3900
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 49086
 National Grid Reference SM81031106

 Farm Boundary

Site Category A - National Importance


-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings

Sites and Buildings of National Importance without a statutory designation


Site Category B - Regional Importance

-  Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

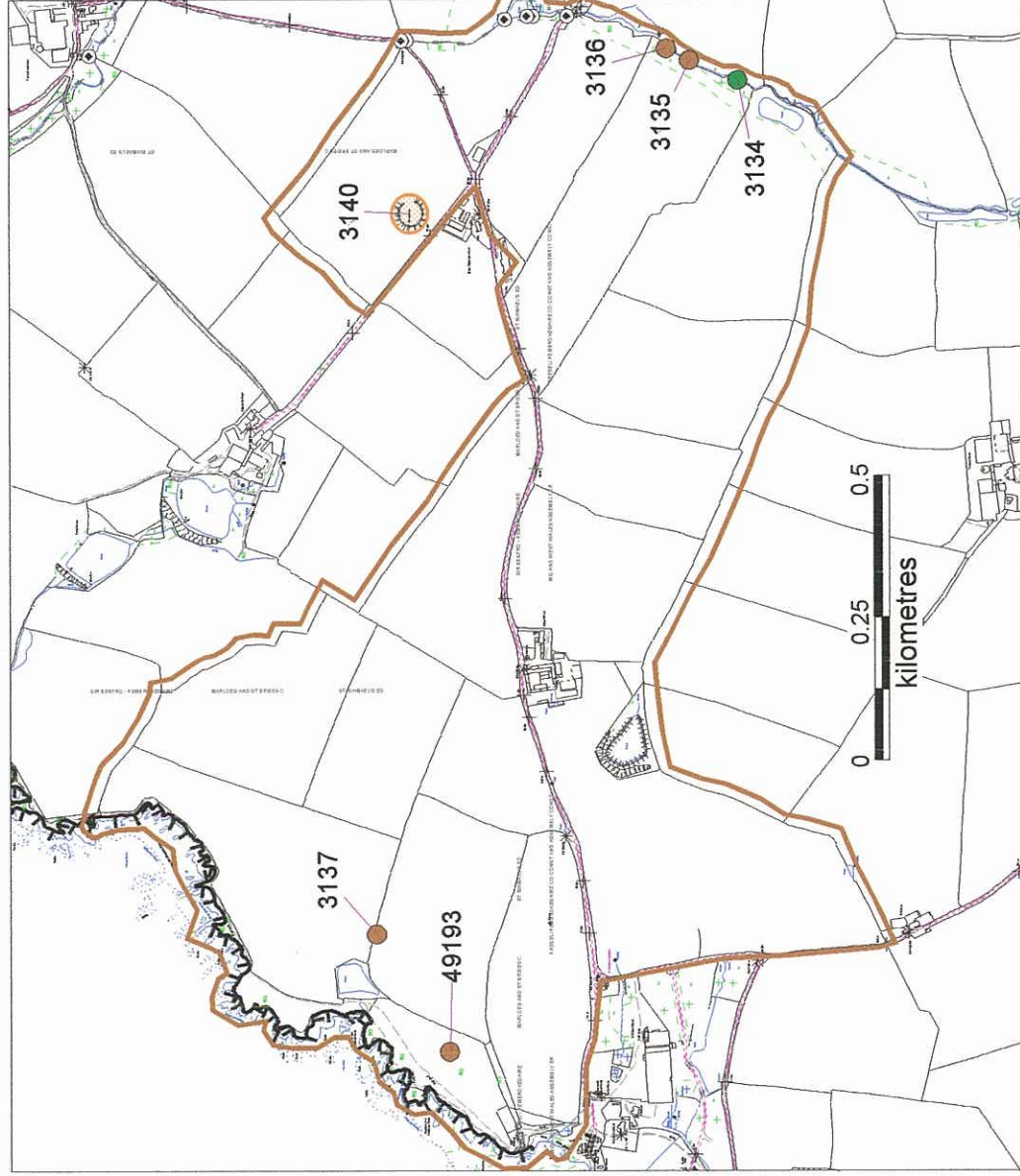
-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

Only sites commented on in the text are shown on this map. For a map of all known sites, please consult the Historic Environment 1 report.

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Position: Tir Gofal Archaeologist

Signature P. Groom Date 31st Oct 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 31/10/03

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