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TIR GOFAL HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: CALL OUT VISIT

Prepared for:
New Shipping Farm
W/13/4309



Part of the registered parkland of Upton Castle

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

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).

A call out visit was requested to holding c of New Shipping farm in order to comment on proposals to undertake parkland tree planting within the historic park of Upton Castle. A second issue was raised on the day of the farm visit which included the restoration and modification of an historic cow shed at the farmstead of New Shipping within holding b.

Historic landscape character

Holding c lies within the Registered Historic Landscape of Milford Haven Waterway and the Historic Landscape Character Area 338, Carew, Milton and Nash. These areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape and give general management priorities for the historic environment of the area.

The northern part of holding c is part of the registered park and garden (PGW (Dy) 45 (PEM), forming part of Upton Castle Park (Cadw, 2002). The southern half is defined as 'essential setting' and although it does not fall within the registered area, it forms a significant background or context and is therefore a vital component of the parkland.

Holding b lies within the Registered Historic Landscape of Milford Haven Waterway and is part of the Historic Landscape Character area 336, West Williamston and Carew Newton. Within the holding the fields are quite large in size, with regular, straight boundaries suggesting they were enclosed quite late, but prior to the recording of the tithe map in 1839. One or two of the larger fields were later subdivided in the mid 19th century. This area occupies a limestone belt, consequently quarries and limekilns feature in the landscape, many in close proximity to the river to facilitate transportation.

UPTON CASTLE PARK (HOLDING C)

Description

The northeastern part of the holding, which falls within the registered area of parkland, is a tongue of land which incorporates a ridge sloping gently down towards the Carew river. This area is currently under pasture in the main, but large swathes of woodland occupy the eastern and southwestern fringes of the land parcel. The woodland is unenclosed and is grazed from time to time, it is characterised by mature oaks with the occasional self sown ash and cherry interspersed. The extent of the woodland appears to echo that which is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866. Unfortunately, however, some of the mature oaks have recently been lost in bad weather and gaps are appearing in the woodland canopy. Other mature specimens are also showing signs of wear; large boughs have been lost and there is evidence of others which have broken. No tree planting appears to have taken place in the past as there is little evidence of young trees to replace the older generation.



Upton Castle Parkland, this area is characterised by swathes of deciduous woodland framing the open field.



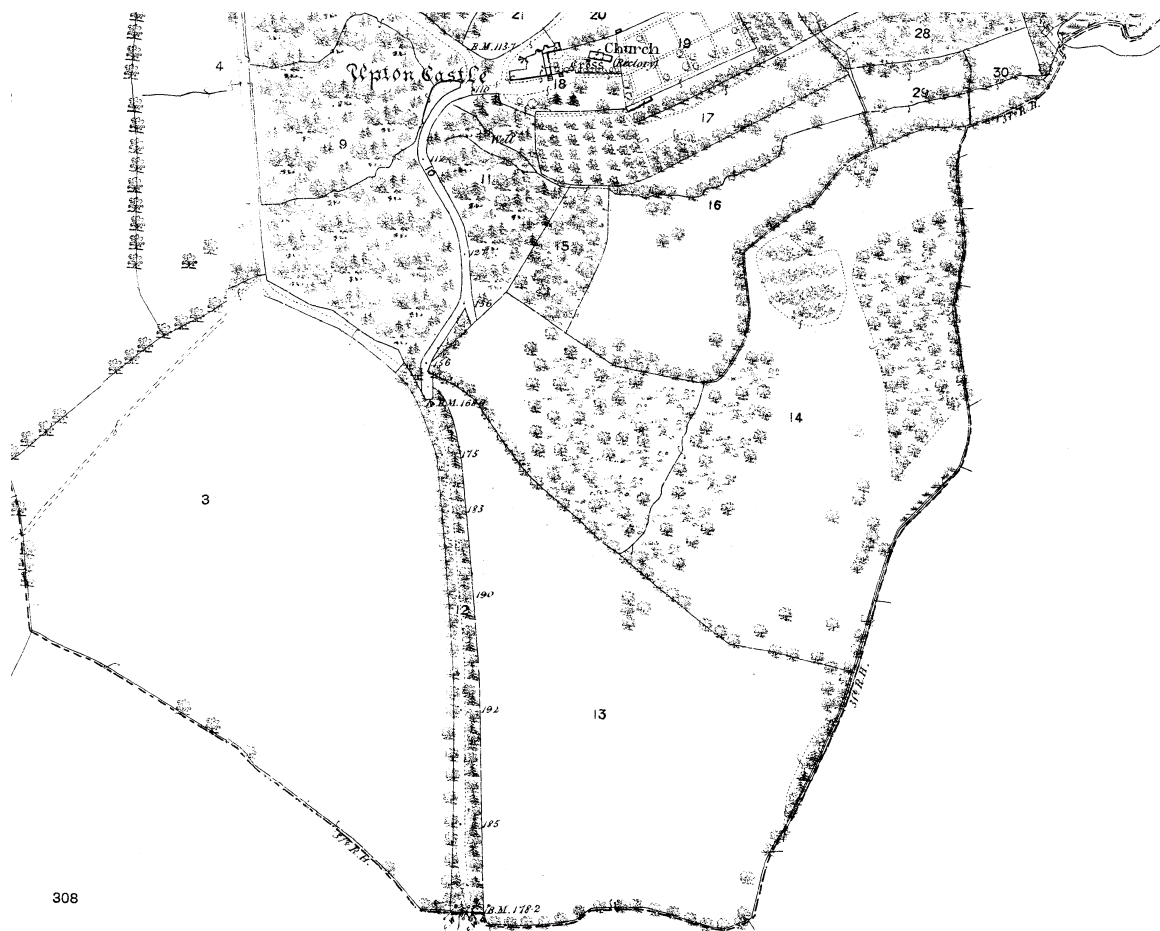
Several mature parkland trees have fallen in recent bouts of bad weather

Management Recommendations

It is clear that the condition of the parkland tree planting is beginning to deteriorate and that the stock of mature and veteran trees is gradually diminishing. This loss of trees within the parkland will lead to the eventual degradation of the parkland quality in the long term. In order to avoid the loss of parkland character, it has been proposed, through Tir Gofal, to undertake tree planting in this area. This would be of great benefit to the long term survival of the parkland, but should be done with great care to maintain historic parkland character.

It is proposed that the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map should be used to guide the extent of the tree planting. The map clearly indicates the extent of the woodland planting in the 3rd quarter of the 19th century, and this corresponds to the planting which can be seen today. The tree planting should target those positions where trees have been recently been lost and those trees which are damaged and appear to be nearing the end of their natural lifespan.

The species of trees which should be planted should reflect the species profile which is represented in the existing woodland. It is recommended that individual tree guards are used for the newly planted trees to offer protection against stock. This would be preferable to fencing out the entire woodland area as this might encourage more invasive tree species and other vegetation taking hold. Grazing of the parkland would suppress the growth of other species in favour of those which have been planted and would therefore help to retain the character of the parkland.



The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map clearly indicates the position of the parkland tree planting. The tree planting is proposed to take place in the parcel marked '14'. Ordnance Survey, 1875 & 1866. Pembrokeshire sheet 40.02 & 03

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COW SHED

Description

To the south of the current farmstead of New Shipping is the earlier farmstead, with the old farmhouse located above the foreshore of the Carew river. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map indicates that in 1907, when the map was revised, the farmhouse was occupied and that two other farm buildings were located to the north. At some point in the 20th century the new farmstead was established in close proximity to the other farm buildings. The building which may be subject to restoration through the Tir Gofal scheme is the old cow shed, located at an almost central point between the old and the new farmstead of New Shipping.

The cow shed is currently empty, and appears to have been disused for some time. It is a simple rectangular building, built of local rubble stone and roofed in slate. Along the east longitudinal wall is a central square opening, flanked by two ventilation slits to either side. A doorway is positioned, centrally in both gable ends. The rear, or west longitudinal wall, has no openings whatsoever, presumably because internally a wooden feed rack and manger runs the length of the building. The southern half of the feeding racks have been reconstructed using the original timbers, on the timber rails square sockets are incised, positioned to hold the vertical struts. The roof is constructed with 5 planked A-frame trusses, held by wooden pegs.

The condition of the building is poor. The orchard to the west and south of the building has become heavily overgrown and a number of trees are weighing on the roof on the west side. Ivy has encroached over large areas of the roof. In addition many slates have slipped, and in places the roof covering has been lost completely. The north gable end is also of some concern; the stonework above the doorway appears very unstable, probably partly due to the disintegration of the timber lintel.



The cow shed at New Shipping farm, this building is threatened by encroaching vegetation and is no longer weatherproof



The masonry of the north gable wall is unstable, particularly above the doorway.



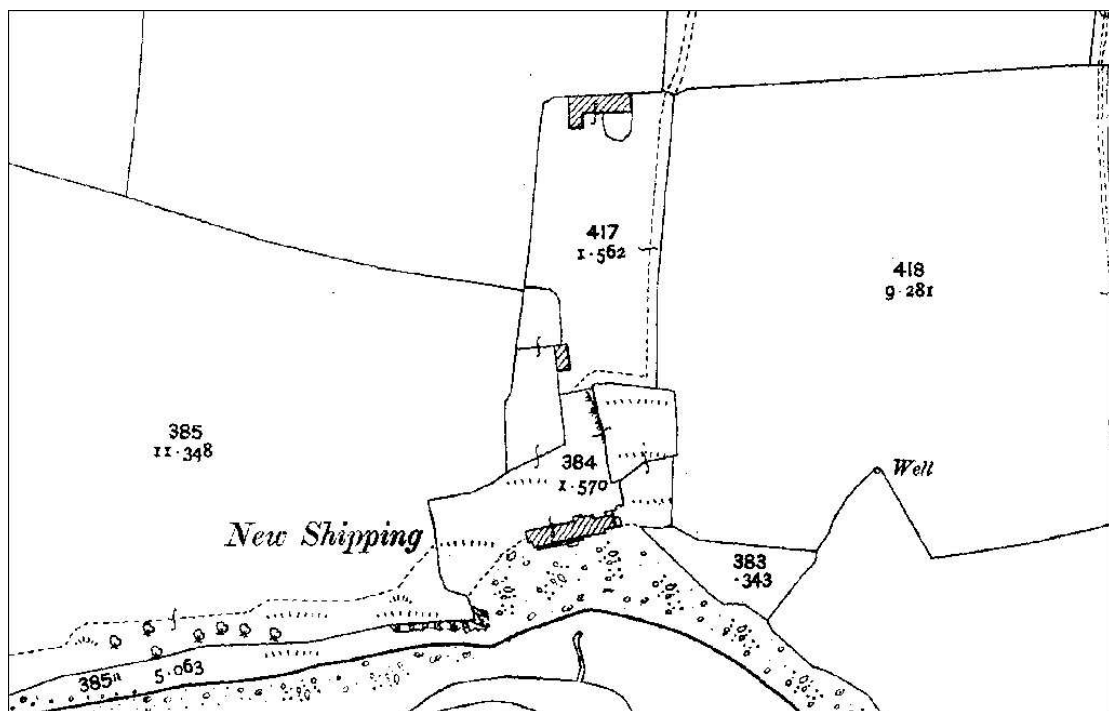
Internally the wooden fixtures survive, here the wooden rails of the manger have been reused.

Management Recommendations

It is proposed through Tir Gofal to repair this building and bring it back into use. This proposal is to be welcomed; in its present condition the building is unfit to use and if its current rate of decline is not stopped it will become little more than a ruin in a very short space of time. It has been proposed to reuse this building as a machinery shed, this will have the unfortunate consequence of necessitating a larger double doorway being inserted into the north gable end. However this seems to be an appropriate

course of action if the future of the building is to be secured. The north gable wall will require some intervention anyway due to the unstable masonry and if a larger doorway can be introduced sympathetically using traditional materials then the overall quality of the building should not be severely compromised.

It is recommended that the work is carried out as soon as possible as parts of the building are in a very fragile state. If work cannot be carried out before the winter then efforts should be made to remove as much of the vegetation which is loading onto the roof and walls, as possible. Ivy should be cut through above ground level, but it is advisable to leave it in place until consolidation works can be undertaken. As much of the historic fabric of the building should be retained as possible, including the hay rack and manger. New works should be carried out using traditional materials, which match the character of the historic building.



The historic farmstead of New Shipping, the cow shed lies half way between the old farmhouse to the south and the farm buildings to the north.

Ordnance Survey, 1907. Pembrokeshire sheet 40.03

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REFERENCES

Maps

Ordnance Survey, 1907. Pembrokeshire sheet 40.03

Ordnance Survey, 1866. Pembrokeshire sheet 40.03

Ordnance Survey, 1875. Pembrokeshire sheet 40.02

Other Sources

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 2002. *Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, & Pembrokeshire. Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Part 1: Parks and Gardens.*