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**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
(Call Out)**

**Prepared for:
Cefnbenydd**

**Tir Gofal Reference No:
W/12/4595**

**Report Number: 2005/8
Project Record Number: 49550**

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Historic landscape character

This farm consists of two farm holdings. The main holding, W/12/4595, lies to the north of Llanwrda, and within the Historic Landscape Character Area 257 Llanwrda Parish. The 2nd smaller holding lies to the west of Cwm-Ifor and within HLCA 201 Cwm-Ifor - Manordeilo. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape and the descriptions include general management priorities. The enclosure pattern within W/12/4595 is one of medium sized irregular fields with small areas of woodland, and a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and cottages. This pattern suggests enclosure had taken place by the early Post Medieval period, by which time many of the farmsteads had probably also been established. The farmsteads, cottages and chapel are all shown in place by the time of the tithe map in 1837, although the only boundaries marked are the main farm boundaries, but the current field layout is shown as early as the 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1887.

Call Out Visit

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.

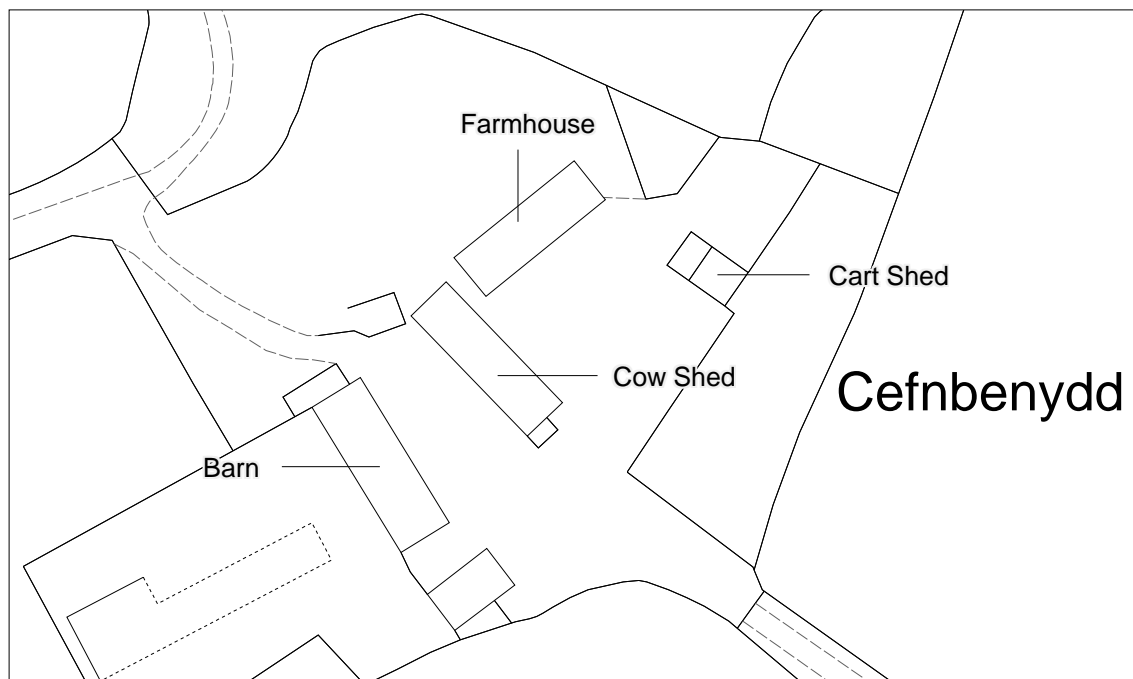
The Call Out Report responds to management concerns regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (HE1).

DESCRIPTION

A site visit was undertaken to Cefnbenydd Farm on the 16th December 2004 in order to look at various questions regarding building restoration on the farm.

Cefnbenydd Farmhouse is a long, two storey farmhouse lying across the slope, which has been modernised. The historic farm buildings consist of a cart shed, a cow shed and a barn. The layout of the farmstead appears to have been established by 1837 as it is recorded on Llanwrda Parish Tithe map, with the exception of the cart shed which first appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887.

The farmstead is of great historical and archaeological interest and demonstrates the shifting fortunes of farming over the past two centuries. The cow shed, which appears to be the earliest surviving farm building, encapsulates the remains of cruck trusses, an earlier form of building and one that is now increasingly rare. The magnificent barn and cart shed, demonstrate a considerable investment in the farm in the second half of the 19th century, both buildings would appear to have been built at a similar time and express a fine quality workmanship. The farm stands at 165 acres and the owners relate that this farm used to be the second largest farm in the parish. The size of the farm, its success and comparative wealth is demonstrated by the size and quality of the farm buildings.



Barn

The barn is a large, long range built down the slope. It is constructed out of local rubble stone but has masonry dressings, including flat stone arches. The pitched roof is covered with slate. The southern end has a stable with a loft overhead. Access is gained by external steps against the gable end. The loft, now used as a workshop, was used for accommodation for farm worker(s), and the present owners remember tongue and groove partitions lined with wall paper (now removed). Below, the stable is entered by one large doorway; a small shuttered opening flanks the doorway to the right. Inside the stable some wooden stalls survive.

The lower, northwestern end of the barn is open to the roof, with two sets of double doors. Smaller, opposing doorways survive in the rear wall (southwest) and ventilation slits in the lateral and gable walls. Although the Tithe map of 1837 clearly indicates a building in this location this must have been demolished and replaced by the current barn which has a datestone 'Built 1872'. Stone cobbled flooring survives in both of the threshing bays.

The remains of masonry pigsties and associated yards survive against the northwest gable, which have been incorporated into a breeze block lean-to.

The barn retains a number of its early and original wooden fixtures and fittings, including some of the stable stalls, the shutter to the stable window and also the upper sections of the large double barn doors.

The barn is a historically interesting and an aesthetically pleasing building. It is a fine example of a 19th century stone built barn of this area which has undergone little significant change during its lifetime and retains many of its original features. It is for this reason that any alterations or modifications should be very carefully undertaken in order to retain its historic integrity.



The large barn at Cefnbenydd reflects the size and prosperity of the farm

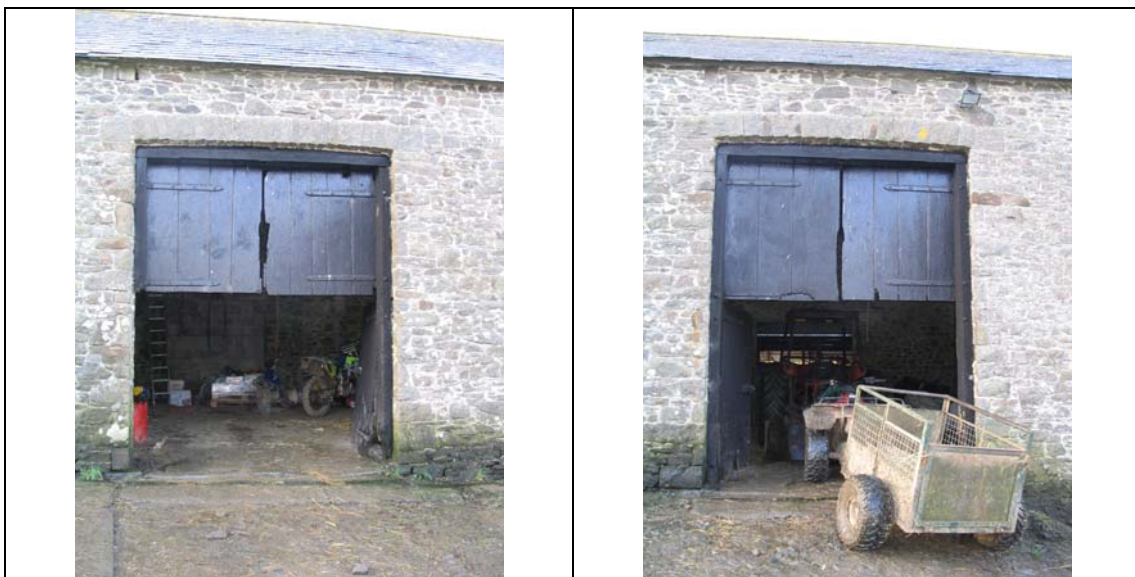
Recommendations

The upper barn doors appear to be original, the lower halves are partially missing and also the lower section of the door frames have rotted. The present owners hope to

renew the barn doors, replacing both the door frames and the doors with new, following the design of the original doors.

Standard conservation guidelines advise that;

- Wherever practicable, repairs should be carried out rather than wholesale replacement of old fixtures and fittings.
- When repair is not possible, as it is considered in this case, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction.
- Door furniture such as original hinges, latches etc should also be re-used wherever possible and if not should be replaced on a like-for-like basis.
- Wherever possible historic finishes should be retained. In this case a paint finish would probably be most appropriate, ideally following the original colour scheme.



Only the upper sections of the original barn doors at Cefnbenydd survive



The cart shed at Cefnbenydd Farm

Cart Shed

The cart shed is a small, squarish lofted building, with a pair of arched stone cart entrances. The height of the building appears to have been raised, as the stonework of the 1st floor is more course, and is largely made up of rubble. This rough stonework would previously have been covered with a render or limewash finish but this has recently been removed from the southwest facing elevation. Access to the 1st floor is gained through a doorway in the gable end, reached from the higher ground level. The roof is pitched and slated.

The cart shed is a small but impressive building; with high quality masonry detailing including fine stone arches over the cart entrances. Although modest in size it has architectural aspirations and would appear to have been built, along with the barn, as part of a large scale investment in the farmstead.

Recommendations

The present owners also hope to undertake some repairs to the cart shed, repairing both the floor and also re-slating the northeast side of the roof. Again these repairs to the cart shed should endeavour to retain as much of the historic structure as possible, preserving the historic character of the building.

When reslating the roof, care should be taken to remove the maximum number of old slates in order to reuse as many as possible. New slates should match the type, colour, texture, size and thickness of the existing ones. New slates can be mixed with old ones across the roof.

Repairs to the floor should also endeavour to reuse as many of the existing floorboards as possible. It is understood, however that the joists may need to be replaced in order to strengthen the floor.



The cow shed at Cefnbenydd appears to be the earliest surviving farm building

Cow shed

A long, low cow shed lies parallel to the barn which has stalls to accommodate 21 beasts. The cow shed is rubble stone built with a whitewash finish all over. The roof is pitched and covered with corrugated asbestos sheeting. This building demonstrates an interesting history, it has had many changes and modifications over time, but these changes have left their imprint in the building. Originally the building was thatched and constructed with jointed cruck timbers, with a heavy post embedded into the wall and a further heavy timber which formed the roof truss jointed into it. At some point the timbers have been cut off at the wall and the cruck blades have been reused to form the present roof trusses. Horizontal beams, also sawn off at the wall, indicate that the building was originally lofted.

Although this building is perhaps the most modest and visually least impressive in the farmstead complex, archaeologically it is the most interesting. It retains evidence of a earlier traditional construction which, although once very common, is now a very rare unusual survival.

Recommendations

Cracking in the northwestern gable suggests that there is some instability in the structure at this end. It is recommended that structural works to the building are considered in order to stabilise the building. This should be carried out maintaining as much of the historic fabric as possible, using appropriate techniques and materials.



The remains of crucks are embedded into the wall of the cow shed, having been cut off against the wall face.

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