

Mountain Farm W/13/4527

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



Report No. 2004/23

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Mountain Farm
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

Mountain Farm lies at grid reference SN07280594, in the community of Jeffreyston. The farm consists of two land holdings (W/13/4527/a and 4527/b), both of these were visited by Cambria Archaeology on February 19th, 2004.

Mountain Farm, or Mountain Park Farm as it is named on historic maps, is set in a landscape mostly formed during the 19th century. The farmstead itself (PRN 50203) was built in the second half of the century, and retains a stone cowshed next to the house. Large parts of the countryside around the farm were shaped by the coal industry – historic maps show the area dotted with spoil heaps and coal pits. Although many of these were cleared in the 20th century, a relict coal-mining landscape is preserved under woodland in holding W/13/4527/b (PRN 50212). The spoil tips, ponds and pits in the wood are a clear reminder of an industry which had a profound influence across much of Pembrokeshire during the 19th century.

Additional features of interest are found in the west of this wood – a sunken trackway (PRN 50210) and old field boundaries visible beneath the undergrowth give a glimpse of the landscape as it was prior to the expansion of Jefferston colliery. The faint remains of a cottage named ‘Pennsylvania’ (PRN 50211) also survive in this area.

ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE

To ensure the long-term stability and preservation of the coal mining features found in land holding W/13/4527/b, through appropriate management and thinning of the woodland.

SITES REQUIRING ACTIVE MANAGEMENT

All of the sites on this farm are covered by the management guidelines given in section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features). A copy of these guidelines is included (see page 6). However, a few sites require more specific or active management, and the main recommendations for those are given below. For detailed recommendations, see the entry under the list of specific sites:

PRN 50203 – FARMSTEAD

Restoration works on the cowshed should be concentrated on the roof. The ideal would be to re-slate the building, but if re-slatting is not possible, then the metal sheets should be replaced. The proposal to clear and re-plant the garden area is also to be welcomed. The area is surrounded by partially grown out hedges on earth banks, and these boundaries should be retained.

PRN 50210 – TRACKWAY

Ideally the track should be cleared of scrub, and made passable for all of its length. Where the track passes through the woodland, young saplings should be removed in order to keep it clear and no further planting should take place.

PRN 50211 – COTTAGE

It is likely that buried archaeology survives in this location, so it is important that the site is protected from intrusive activities. Future management of the woodland should consider thinning in this area, and preventing young trees from growing up on and around the site.

PRN 50212 – COAL PITS

The development of a woodland management plan needs to include suitable management for the significant archaeological and historical features in this wood, and needs to ensure their long term preservation.

The area at the far east of the wood, and the field north of the cottage are the primary areas of concern. They are very overgrown, and almost impenetrable. Ideally these areas should be thinned and young self-seeded saplings removed. Some removal of undergrowth would also be of value, in order to open up the area and make it more accessible. This may be achieved through grazing with cattle, if this is practical.

There should be no ground-intrusive activities or removal of material from any of the sites in this wood. Vegetation and trees, where necessary, should be cut at ground level and the roots treated to prevent re-growth. They should not be dug or dragged out. Mature trees growing on the steep sides of the central pit and of the ponds should be managed to prevent them being vulnerable to wind throw.

Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features (TIR GOFAL FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN SECTION B2)

The management of all sites should comply with the following general requirements for the maintenance and protection of archaeological and historic features:

- Historic earthworks, stone structures, and archaeological sites must be retained and protected against damage.
- Unless the land has previously been used for arable crops, do not plough earthworks or archaeological sites, or cultivate so close as to cut into the surface profile of earthworks or cause damage to stone structures. On existing arable land, do not increase the depth of cultivation.
- Do not install any new drainage or underground services. Maintain an even cover of low growing vegetation and stock at a level that prevents any poaching or erosion. Do not site supplementary feeding areas or water troughs on archaeological or historic features.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without prior approval. Avoid using heavy machinery on such areas.
- Do not remove any material from archaeological or historic features or deposit any spoil or farm wastes.
- Remove any dead or unstable timber from the vicinity of earthworks or stone structures. Agree with the project officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by storm events such as wind-throw trees.
- Ensure that all rabbits are kept under control and do not cause damage to earthworks and archaeological sites.
- Do not carry out any excavations, erect any new structures or plant any trees without prior approval from the project officer.
- The use of metal detectors on land subject to agreement must be in accordance with the Treasure Act, 1996.
- Where surface archaeological finds have been discovered, the findspots should be treated with the same care as buried archaeological remains. Chance discoveries made during the course of your agreement should be notified to your local Archaeological Trust.

Traditional Buildings

- Traditional buildings, which are weatherproof and structurally sound, must be maintained in a weatherproof condition. Those traditional buildings, or parts of traditional buildings, that have not been modified previously must be maintained using traditional materials.
- Traditional buildings that have been modified previously may be maintained using compatible materials.
- Do not disturb any bats or barn owls that use the buildings. If these species are present

SPECIFIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES

W/13/4527/a

PRN	50203	Site Name	MOUNTAIN PARK	Grid Reference	SN07280594
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL		

Description

Mountain Park farmstead lies a short distance west of the hamlet of Jeffreyston. It is not seen on the parish tithe map (1845, Jeffreyston parish), but is depicted on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map so was constructed between those dates.

The farmstead is very small – historic maps show a single long building with a garden or enclosure running alongside the road. The present day farmstead consists of the house itself and a cowshed butting up against the south end. The garden/enclosure is still visible, but is currently very overgrown. The cowshed is built of rubble-stone, and is currently roofed with sheets of corrugated iron. A large part of the front wall (southwest) has been re-built in breeze-block. The building was probably originally slated, but the roof timbers are incomplete with only wooden ‘A-frames’ and some of the purlins surviving.

Inside the building are concrete cow-stalls, with limewash surviving on the stone walls.

The landowner has expressed an interest in carrying out restoration works on the cowshed through the Tir Gofal scheme. There is also a proposal to clear the garden area and re-plant it with fruit trees.

Recommendations

Restoration works on the cowshed should be concentrated on the roof, which is currently lifting and is no longer fully weatherproof. The ideal would be to re-slate the building, but this would be a major undertaking. New roof timbers should be modelled on the existing ones, respecting the original construction techniques.

If re-slating is not possible, then the metal sheets should be replaced. At present, there are a number of small sheets which are overlapping and water is running through some of the joins.

These should be replaced with larger metal sheets, ensuring that there is sufficient overhang at the edges to prevent water from dripping off the roof onto the external stonework.

The proposal to clear and re-plant the garden area is also to be welcomed. The area is surrounded by partially grown out hedges on earth banks, and these boundaries should be retained.

Site Category C

PRN 50204 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN07330598

Site Type SPOIL HEAP? **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

Description

A possible spoil heap marked on the 1891 and 1908 Ordnance Survey maps. Nothing was seen on the ground on the day of the visit.

Cambria Archaeology was informed that many spoil heaps have been removed from this area as part of a programme of land reclamation in the 1970s.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations apply.

Site Category D

PRN 50205 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN07430580

Site Type SPOIL HEAP **Period** MODERN

Description

A spoil heap marked on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map. Nothing was seen on the ground on the day of the visit.

Cambria Archaeology was informed that many spoil heaps have been removed from this area as part of a programme of land reclamation in the 1970s.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations apply.

Site Category D

PRN 50206 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN07320613

Site Type SPOIL HEAP **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

Description

An area of disturbed ground some 20m in diameter. The ground is slightly raised and very uneven, and contains some small pieces of building stone under turf and scrub.

This probably represents a spoil tip, part of Jeffreston colliery.

Recommendations

There should be no clearance or removal of material from this site. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN 50207 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN07200617

Site Type SPOIL HEAP? **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

Description

A roughly circular mound, quite smooth-topped and around 20m in diameter. The mound rises to around 1m in height and drops off relatively evenly to the edges.

The feature is likely to be associated with the Jeffreston colliery. It's precise nature is unknown – it may be a spoil heap or an infilled shaft.

The mound is turf-covered and stable.

Recommendations

There should be no clearance or removal of material from this site. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN 50208 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN07140615

Site Type QUARRY **Period** POST-MEDIEVAL

Description

A small quarry scoop on the side of the road. This is seen on historic maps as a small enclosure and appears to be associated with a cottage on the opposite side of the road. The quarry may have supplied the stone for the building. The quarry is now somewhat overgrown with brambles and scrub. There are no traces of any boundaries around the quarry site.

Recommendations

There should be no removal of material from this site. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category C

W/13/4527/b

PRN	50209	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN07170667
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Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL
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Description

A 'cottage and garden' marked on the parish tithe map of 1845 and listed in the tithe apportionment. There are now no traces of the building, and the area is used for car parking.

Recommendations

All ground intrusive activities should be avoided in this area. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category D

PRN	50210	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN07140666; SN07070722
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Site Type	TRACKWAY	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL
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Description

A sunken trackway, visible as an earthwork for all of its length. Historic maps show a road running along the western edge of this land holding, past a cottage named Pennsylvania (PRN 50211) and up to a farm named 'Horseparks' which still survives today. At the northern end of the farm, the track passes through a wooded area full of colliery features (PRN 50212). In general, the trackway is in fair condition. Parts of it are substantially overgrown and almost impassable, though in other areas the track is quite open.

Recommendations

Ideally the track should be cleared of scrub, and made passable for all of its length. Where the track passes through the woodland, young saplings should be removed in order to keep it clear and no further planting should take place.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

Site Category C

PRN	50211	Site Name	PENNSYLVANIA	Grid Reference	SN07090709
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	POST-MEDIEVAL		

Description

The site of a cottage marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map as 'Pennsylvania'. It is not marked on the parish tithe map of 1845, or on the 1908 Ordnance Survey map. Its dates roughly coincide with the dates during which Jeffreston colliery was in operation, and it is possible it housed a colliery worker. It may have then fallen out of use as Jeffreston colliery declined, and employed fewer and fewer men (see PRN 50212).

The cottage survives as an area of scattered building stone on a slightly raised platform. A sunken trackway (PRN 50210) curves around the site on the west and north sides.

The cottage site is now set in an area of woodland which is full of colliery remains (PRN 50212). Just to the south of the cottage is a relict field boundary, visible as an earth bank. This runs for around 50m, roughly east-west.

Recommendations

The cottage site is currently under woodland and appears to be stable. It seems likely that buried archaeology survives in this location, so it is important that the site is protected from intrusive activities. Future management of the woodland should consider thinning the wood in this area, and preventing young trees from growing up on and around the site.

Woodland management activities should be carried out with care, ensuring that vegetation is cut off at ground level and removed, rather than being dug or dragged out.

Site Category C



Plate 1 *Traces of an old field boundary (in the centre of the picture) and a pathway next to it. This runs past the cottage site, in an area of more open woodland.*

PRN	50212	Site Name	JEFFRESTON COLLIERY	Grid Reference	SN07290702
Site Type	COAL PITS	Period	POST- MEDIEVAL		

Description

An extensive area of old coal workings. The area is now all under woodland and includes several ponds, infilled shafts and spoil tips. The wood is currently used as a location for paintball games. Historic maps show this area much as it appears today. A large pond takes up much of this end, and this is surrounded by earthworks which appear to be mostly spoil tips. Historic maps also show some field boundaries in this area, but the density of the woodland and undergrowth meant that much of the area was impenetrable.

West of the pond, in the centre of the area, the woodland is generally more open, and the undergrowth is also less dense. This area is dominated by a large, steep-sided pit which runs roughly east-west across the woodland. The base of the pit is generally open, and clear paths run down the sides. On the north side, beyond the pit, is a deeply pitted area covered with open woodland. A number of infilled shafts are visible, as are spoil tips and tracks between the features.

Moving further west, traces of land-use not related to the colliery begin to become apparent. Two features particularly stand out – the remains of a ruined cottage (PRN 50211) and a deeply sunken trackway which curves around the cottage site (PRN 50210). There is also at least one relict field boundary running through this part of the wood.

It is likely that coal was dug in the vicinity of Jeffreston village by the eighteenth century, but Jeffreston colliery itself seems to have been opened in the 1870s. It appears that it was neither large nor particularly successful, and was already in decline by the turn of the century – in 1902 it employed 22 men, 12 men in 1906 and only 2 in 1910. Even so, it seems to have survived until 1913 and local legend says that the spoil heaps were picked over during strikes in the 1920s (Price:1982:77).

Recommendations

See also recommendations made for the trackway (PRN 50210) and the cottage (PRN 50211).

For the most part, this complex is well-preserved under woodland and there seem to be no immediate problems. However, the development of a woodland management plan needs to include suitable management for the significant archaeological and historical features in this wood, and needs to ensure their long term preservation.

The area at the far east of the wood, and the field north of the cottage are the primary areas of concern. They are very overgrown, and almost impenetrable. Ideally these areas should be thinned and young self-seeded saplings removed. Some removal of undergrowth would also be of value, in order to open up the area and make it more accessible. This may be achieved through grazing with cattle, if this is practical.

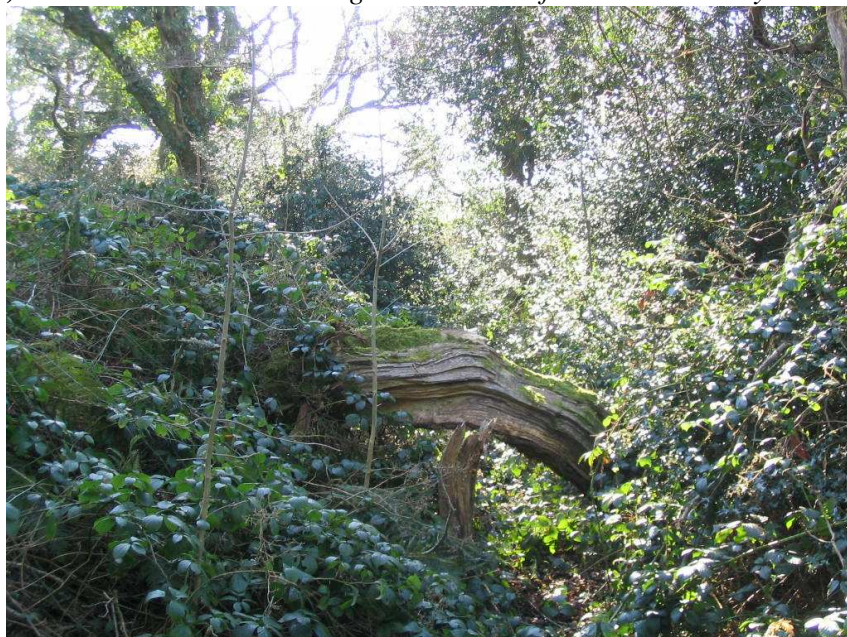
There should be no ground-intrusive activities or removal of material from any of the sites in this area. Vegetation and trees, where necessary, should be cut at ground level and the roots treated to prevent re-growth. They should not be dug or dragged out. Mature trees growing on the steep sides of the central pit and of the ponds should be managed to prevent them being vulnerable to wind throw. If these trees fall, they will cause significant damage to the earthworks. Ideally, these steep banks should be kept relatively clear, with young trees and saplings being removed.

Site Category C



Plate 2 (above) *Area of open woodland, with clearly visible earthworks showing the locations of infilled shafts and spoil tips.*

Plate 3 (below) *Dense woodland obscuring the remains of the coal industry.*



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.

REFERENCES

Ordnance Survey 1891 Pembrokeshire XXXV.SW
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXXV.SW
Ordnance Survey 1908 Pembrokeshire XXXV.9
Price, M.R.C.:1982: Industrial Saundersfoot, p.77
Tithe map 1845 Jeffreyston Parish

Mountain Farm

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4527/a
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN49849
 National Grid Reference SN07280595

- 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

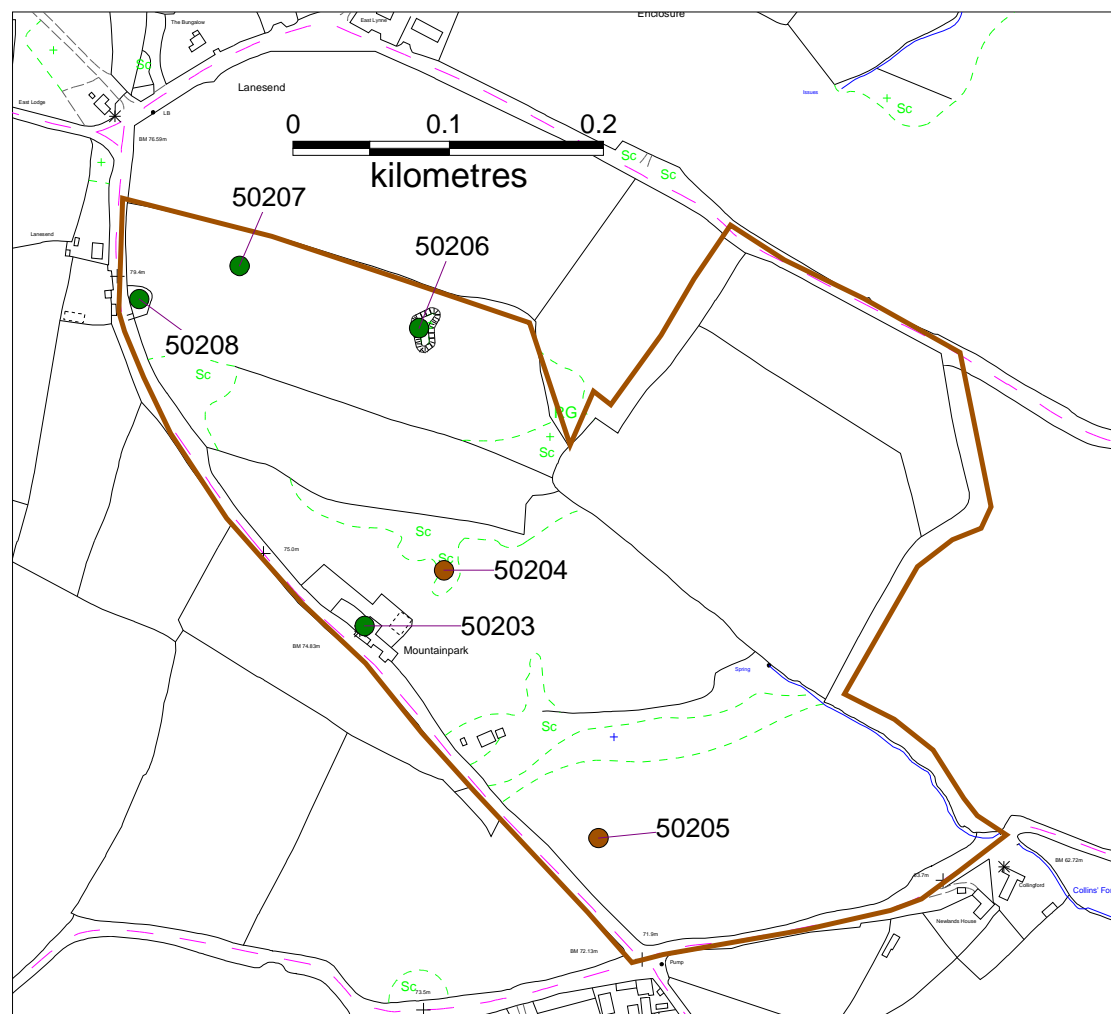
Site Category C - Local Importance

- 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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Mountain Farm

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/4527/b
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN49849
 National Grid Reference SN07280702

- 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

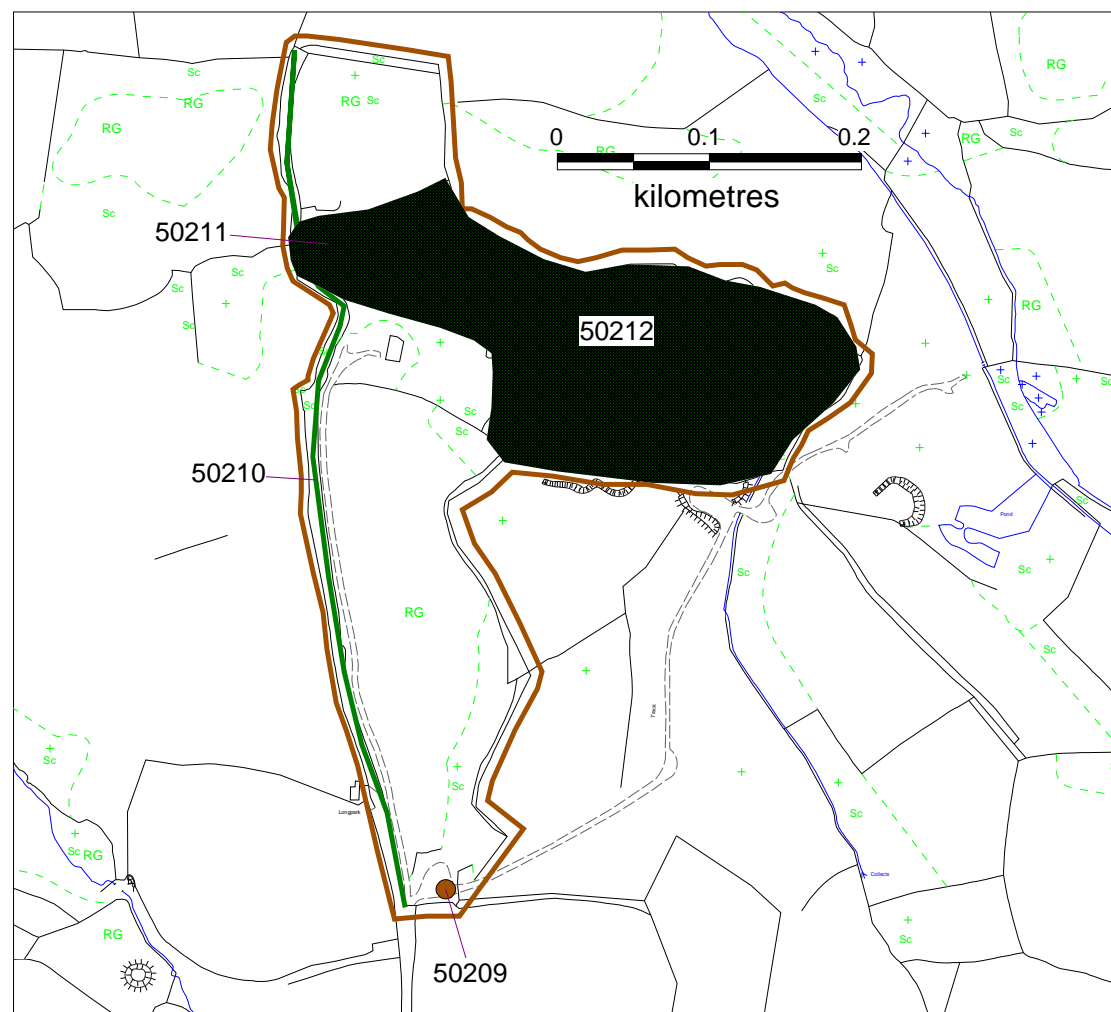
Site Category C - Local Importance

- Sites and buildings of Local Importance
- Extent of features related to Jefferston Colliery

Site Category D – Unknown Importance

- Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

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**Mountain Farm
W/13/4527**

REPORT NUMBER 2004/23

February 2004

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Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
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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