

Wenallt W/12/4144

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

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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

Wenallt consists of three land holdings in the west of Carmarthenshire. Holdings 4144 and 4144a., in the community of Abergwili, were visited by Cambria on the 25th April 2004. A third holding, (4144b.) approximately 6 kilometres to the north-west in Llanpumsaint community was not seen.

Holdings 4144 and part of 4144a. fall within the Tywi Valley Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (CCW/Cadw 1998). This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, and falls within the Abergwili – Llanegwad Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA): 183. These areas identify the different historic landscape components, which give an area its unique qualities. A description of this character area is provided at the end of the report.

Holding 4144 lies within a landscape of rolling hills, and the Afon Annell forms part of the eastern boundary. The field pattern here is made up of small to medium sized irregular fields which were in place by the time of the tithe map of c.1841, but are likely to have much earlier origins. The holding is of considerable historic interest, largely for the variety of settlement evidence it contains. The farmsteads of Wenallt (PRN 50671) and Llain-Battis (PRN 50674) are still occupied, but several smaller farmsteads and cottages (PRNs 50675, 50676, 50679 and 50797) have long since fallen out of use. These may have originated during a time of population expansion in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, but were mostly abandoned by the mid twentieth century. A former mill site (PRN 21240; 22147), Melin Llwyn Gwyn, on the Afon Annell provides further testament to increased population density and agricultural prosperity in the past. An early record, on the Rees map of South Wales and Borders in the XIVth century gives reference to the settlement of Bryn-Gwyn (PRN 10780). The precise location of this settlement is now lost, although it may lie within the vicinity of a neighbouring farmstead with the same name.

Holding 4144a. slopes up to the unenclosed mountain common of Mynyddystyfflau-carn. The field pattern here is more varied, with small, irregular fields on the lower slopes and regular enclosures bordering the mountain. The regular enclosures here are probably relatively recent, formed by the enclosure of common land, probably during the later eighteenth or early nineteenth century. A farmstead (PRN 59802) and later a cottage (PRN 50801) were established, probably soon after the land was enclosed. Like other settlements in marginal areas, these dwellings were short lived and both have since been destroyed. Blaen-cwm farmstead (PRN 50798), situated further downslope was abandoned in recent years and is now derelict.

A probable round barrow (PRN 1729) and a parch mark enclosure (PRN 1620) were identified on aerial photographs. Round barrows commonly date to the Bronze Age. The status of the parch mark enclosure is less well known but it is similar to a number of domestic defended enclosures in the region, which are commonly assigned to the Iron Age. An Iron Age hillfort, Croes Arthur (PRN 1719), lies a short distance outside of the western boundary of the holding. No associated earthworks were identified on Wenallt however.

No specific archaeological or historic features are known on the third holding, which lies to the north in the community of Llanpumsaint.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Wenallt lies within an area of high landscape value, falling as it does within the Abergwili – Llanegwad historic landscape character area. Future management should be in keeping with the historic landscape character conservation priorities.

- Boundary loss is highlighted as a concern here. It is important that field boundaries at Wenallt are maintained in a sustainable manner using materials and techniques that are faithful to those of their original construction.
- Historic farm buildings also form an important component of this landscape. Wenallt features a number of traditional buildings- both used and abandoned. It is important that these buildings are maintained in a weatherproof condition using traditional materials and techniques. Detailed management recommendations are provided in the gazetteer below.

2. Several former farmstead and cottage sites at Wenallt that have fallen into disrepair retain few visible traces within the landscape today. It is important that earthwork and buried archaeological remains are also managed sensitively. Management advice for these sites is provided in the gazetteer below.

3. Two parch mark sites (Enclosure PRN 1620; Round Barrow PRN 1729) of likely prehistoric date lie in the east of holding 4144a.

In order to protect buried archaeological remains, the field in which these sites lie should not be cultivated or subjected to any ground breaking activities.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	1620	Site Name	BRYN- AMLWG	Grid Reference	SN47402628
Site Type	ENCLOSURE	Period	Unknown		

Description

This sub-circular enclosure, c. 50m in diameter, appears as a light crop parchmark on aerial photographs taken in 1946. A visit to the site by Cambria in 1983 identified no surface traces except for a slight rise in the ground in the northeast corner of the field. This was confirmed during the archaeological farm visit.

A double concentric circle appears at approximately the same location on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1831 but is undescribed. The status of the parch mark enclosure is not known. It shows speculative similarities to a number of domestic defended enclosures in the region, which are commonly assigned to the Iron Age (c. 600BC- 43AD).

Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological remains, the field in which this site lies should not be cultivated or subjected to any ground breaking activities.

Site Category B

PRN	1729	Site Name	RHYD- GANOL	Grid Reference	SN47382624
Site Type	ROUND BARROW	Period	Bronze Age		

Description

A probable round barrow identified on aerial photographs taken in 1946. No surface traces of a monument exist in the area today.

These sites can date from the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC). They are circular mounds of earth or stone placed over the location of a burial. The burial may be a crouched inhumation in a stone lined grave referred to as a cist or it may cover a pottery urn containing cremation ashes.

Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological remains, the field in which this site lies should not be cultivated or subjected to any ground breaking activities.

Site Category B

PRN	21240	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48582549
Site Type	MILL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This narrow strip on the east bank of the Afon Annell is identified as Mill land, mill etc on the parish tithe map and apportionment of 1841? The former mill of Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn (PRN 22147) and remnant water management features (mill pond PRN 50795 and mill race PRN 50796) lie at the southern end of this area.

Recommendations

Recommendations for individual features are provided below.

Site Category B



PRNs 50679, 22147- Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn, cottage/ cow shed and mill viewed from high ground to the west.

PRN	22147	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48382535
Site Type	MILL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A former mill on the banks of the Afon Annell. The first large scale map of the area, the Lanegwad Parish tithe map of 1841? shows two unnamed buildings at this location, with the name "Mill land, Mill etc." given on the tithe apportionment. Two buildings appear in a similar location on the 25 inches to a mile Ordnance Survey map of 1889 and the position of the mill can be inferred by a leat (PRN 50796) passing close to the southernmost building. A mill pond (PRN 50795) is marked a short distance to the north-east.

Little is known about the history of the mill today. The mill pond is no longer marked on the 1907 Ordnance Survey edition and the mill had probably ceased to operate by this time.

The remaining north gable and sidewalls of the building are now incorporated within a modern breeze block shed. No traces of the wheel pit or associated milling machinery or apparatus survive. The surviving rubble walls of the mill building are currently in a stable condition, although partially obscured by heavy ivy growth.

Recommendations

The ivy growth on the walls is a potential source of structural instability. Ideally ivy should be cut off at the roots, allowed to die and then removed. Stumps should be spot treated in order to prevent re-growth. This should be followed up by a programme of re-pointing and masonry consolidation in areas where masonry bonds have been weakened by intrusive vegetation growth.

Site Category B

PRN 50671 **Site Name** WENALLT **Grid Reference** SN48192553

Site Type FARMSTEAD **Period** Post
Medieval

Description

A mid-late nineteenth century farmstead on high ground above the Afon Annell. It follows a U-shaped plan with the farmhouse at the head of the yard and detached outbuildings (PRNs 50672, 50673) to either side.

Although buildings appear at this location on the Ordnance Survey map dated 1831 and the parish tithe drawing (1840), the farmstead does not appear in its present form until the Ordnance Survey map of 1891. Only the U-shaped core survives today. Surviving buildings are later nineteenth century in character and include a typical later nineteenth century farmhouse with symmetrical 3 bay façade, a combination threshing barn/ lofted stable and a cow shed (now converted to a stable). Despite modifications, the farmstead retains good historic character.

Recommendations

Recommendations for the individual buildings are provided below.

Site Category B



PRN 50672- the combination farm building on the west side of the yard at Wenallt.

PRN	50672	Site Name	WENALLT	Grid Reference	SN48182552
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A cart shed, threshing barn and stable range on the west side of the yard at Wenallt farmstead (PRN 50671). It is typical of a type of agricultural building, built to serve a variety of purposes, which began to appear in western areas of Wales from the beginning of the nineteenth century.

It is of rubble stone construction with a slate roof and is now painted yellow. The stable, situated upslope to the right (north) has two wooden panel doors facing onto the farmyard and a window to the rear. A narrow door in the gable wall provides access to the hay loft above.

The threshing barn is stepped downslope to the left and features opposing barn doors arranged on either side of the threshing floor. Slit ventilators are evenly spaced to either side.

The southern cart shed is accessed by a wide cart entrance, which opens out onto the yard.

Wooden shuttered openings above open into the loft to the left (south) of the threshing floor.

The range is now partially modernised. It retains few original internal features, and doorways are mostly modified or partially blocked. Despite the alterations, the barn retains its historic character. It is currently in a reasonable condition although some roof slates are displaced, particularly around the south end.

Recommendations

The building should be maintained in a weatherproof condition. Ideally the roof should be restored using the same materials and techniques as those used originally. Materials should be considered on a like for like basis

Site Category B

PRN	50673	Site Name	WENALLT	Grid Reference	SN48212553
Site Type	COW SHED	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A nineteenth century cow shed, with rear lean to on the east side of the yard at Wenallt farmstead (PRN 50671). It is now converted to a stable. It is a long, low building of stone rubble construction with a slate roof, now painted yellow.

The original arrangement featured a series of doors facing onto the farmyard, but most of these are now blocked or modified. The rear lean to, added later, probably provided additional housing for cattle. No internal divisions or fittings survive in either the cow shed or lean to.

The cow shed is currently in a reasonable condition although there are missing and displaced roof slates above both the cow shed and lean to. Lime mortar bonds are eroded and masonry is becoming displaced in places.

Recommendations

The building should be maintained in a weatherproof condition. Ideally the roof should be restored using the same materials and techniques as those used originally. Materials should be considered on a like for like basis. The building would also benefit from some masonry consolidation using a similar lime mortar mix.

Site Category B



PRN 50673- the front elevation of the cow shed at Wenallt

PRN	50674	Site Name	LLAIN BETTWS; LLAIN BATTIS	Grid Reference	SN47912525
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A complex consisting of a farmhouse and two outbuildings arranged around a rectangular yard. Although buildings are shown at this location on earlier maps, the farmstead does not appear in its present form until the Ordnance Survey map of 1907. It remains comparatively unaltered today.

Recommendations

The farmstead is currently occupied and falls outside of the Tir Gofal application area. No specific management recommendations.

Site Category B

PRN	50675	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN47852516
Site Type	FARMSTEAD?	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Two unnamed buildings, possibly a small farmstead, marked at this location on the Abergwili Parish tithe map (1840?) and the 1891, 1907 Ordnance Survey maps. No obvious surface traces of these buildings survive today, and a large complex of modern agricultural buildings now lies to the north. The site was under pasture at the time of the archaeological farm visit.

Recommendations

Although surface traces of these buildings have been removed, buried archaeology is still likely to survive here. The area specified should not be ploughed or subjected to any ground intrusive activities.

Site Category B

PRN	50676	Site Name	CLYN- CETHIN	Grid Reference	SN47772616
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The cottage of Clyn-cethin, now demolished. It is first shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map but appears together with a detached outbuilding on the 1907 edition.

The site is now reduced to earthworks. The cottage remains consist of a low platform (c. 18 x 6m E-W) with a low spread rubble wall visible at the east end. Only the wall footings (c.8 x 6m E-W) of the outbuilding to the north survive. The cottage enclosures have also been grubbed out, although the remnant ditches can still be made out.

The site now lies within the corner of a pasture field. A muckheap, and hardstanding area for bale storage lie a short distance to the south and west respectively. No specific threats from rutting or ground disturbance were identified however.

Recommendations

Earthwork and buried archaeological remains of the cottage and enclosure should be protected from damage. The area specified should not be subjected to any ground intrusive activities or used as a location for feeding livestock. Heavy machinery operation should be avoided outside areas that are presently used for machinery access. The muck heap should not be allowed to encroach onto the cottage or enclosure earthworks.

Site Category B



PRN 50676- looking south west towards the former site of Clyn-cethin cottage and outbuilding.

PRN	50677	Site Name	CLYN- CETHIN	Grid Reference	SN47762615
Site Type	WELL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A well associated with the former cottage of Clyn-cethin (PRN 50676). It appears in the 1907 Ordnance Survey map but is absent from later map sources. It is now infilled and visible only as a shallow circular depression c. 1.5m in diameter. No associated structural remains were identified. The site lies within a pasture field.

Recommendations

The well should be protected from damage and not infilled. No ground intrusive activities to be undertaken within 5 metres of the site.

Site Category B



PRN 50677- the well to the south of Clyn-cethin cottage

PRN	50678	Site Name	CLYN- CETHIN	Grid Reference	SN47872613
Site Type	WELL	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A well marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map some 90m east of Clyn-cethin cottage (now destroyed). It can be identified as an area of marshy ground today. No associated structural remains survive. The site now lies within a pasture field.

Recommendations

The site should be protected from damage. No ground intrusive activities to be undertaken within 5 metres of the site.

Site Category B



PRN 50678- the former well to the east of Clyn-cethin cottage.

PRN	50679	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48392535
Site Type	COTTAGE; COWSHED	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A derelict nineteenth century cottage, with attached cow shed (now demolished) at Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn. Although buildings are shown at this approximate location on the tithe (1841?) and Old Series Ordnance Survey maps, the cottage cannot be positively identified until the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. It is typical of many houses built in West Wales in the later nineteenth century.

The cottage is of rubble stone with a pitched slate roof and red brick end wall chimney stacks. The front (south) wall is pebbledashed, but exposed masonry on the rear and sides preserve remnant lime and colourwash. It stands to two storeys and features a symmetrical façade with central doorway and windows to either side, the upper windows with heads at eaves level. The ground floor openings appear to have been enlarged from their original construction. No original door or window casements survive.

A later lean-to adjoins the rear wall. It is built of similar roughly coursed stone, although with red brick window dressings and features a high yellow brick chimney stack. The north wall is pierced by a narrow door. A pair of window openings, one with four pane sash, are evenly spaced in the rear wall. The interior of neither buildings was seen.

The cow shed is now demolished. Its gable profile, and stall fittings remain visible in the east cottage wall. The surviving concrete building platform measures approximately 10m E-W by 6m N-S.

The farmhouse and lean-to are now used as a wood store. They are presently in a reasonable condition, although some roof slates are displaced whilst others are missing. There is some localised lime mortar erosion, particularly above the lean-to door head and stability is a concern here. The concrete cow shed platform shows signs of having been used as a location for feeding livestock, although it appears to be stable at present with no specific management concerns identified.

Recommendations

The building should be maintained in a weatherproof condition. Loose and missing roof slates should be replaced. The building would also benefit from some selective re-pointing in areas where masonry bonds are weakened. Materials used should follow those of the buildings original construction.

Site Category B



PRNs 50795, 50679, 22147- looking south along the mill pond towards the cottage/ cow house and mill at Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn.

PRN	50795	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48432537
Site Type	MILL POND	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A mill pond serving Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn (PRN 22147). It first appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 and is absent from later map sources. It is linear in plan (60m N-S by 10m E-W), dammed by an earthwork wall along the west and south sides. The dam wall is breached at the southern end and the pond is now dry.

The flow of water to the mill below may have been controlled by a sluice in the wall. No evidence of a sluice or any other water regulation installation was observed during the archaeological farm visit however.

Recommendations

The mill pond should be retained and protected from damage.

Potential for pond recreation could be considered here. Any restoration works should take care not to damage the original pond banks, dam wall and pond lining. Further advice can be provided on request.

Site Category B

PRN	50796	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48372533
Site Type	MILL RACE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The earthwork remains of an old tail race below Melin Llwyn Gwyn (PRN 22147). It first appears on the tithe map of 1841? but is absent from recent map sources. It is visible on the ground today for a length of approximately 30m as a linear earthwork depression c. 2m wide and upto 0.5m deep. The site lies within permanent pasture which is grazed periodically.

Recommendations

Earthwork traces of the mill race should be protected against damage.

Site Category B



PRN 50796- looking south along the remnant mill race.

PRN	50797	Site Name	CWM- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48482534
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A small farmstead north of Pant-teg settlement. The tithe drawing (1841?) shows three buildings arranged haphazardly on the side of the road, and only one of these persists on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1891). The farmstead is now reduced to earthworks. A rectangular terrace (c.10m N-S by 6m E-W) parallel to the road appears to correspond to one of the buildings seen on the tithe map. No obvious earthwork traces of the other buildings survive.

Recommendations

Buried and earthwork traces of the farmstead should be protected from damage. The area including a 15m radius around the site should not be subjected to any ground disturbing activities or used as a location for feeding livestock.

Site Category B



PRN 50797- looking east towards the site of Cwm-Llwyn-Gwyn farmstead.

PRN	50798	Site Name	BLAEN-CWM	Grid Reference	SN46862584
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A derelict nineteenth century farmstead. The farmhouse stands at the head (NW) of the yard, at right angles to a long nineteenth century cow house on the southwest side. Early twentieth century agricultural buildings are positioned to the east and west.

Recommendations

Recommendations for the individual buildings are provided below.

Site Category B

PRN	50799	Site Name	BLAEN-CWM	Grid Reference	SN46862584
Site Type	FARMHOUSE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A derelict farmhouse at Blaen-cwm farmstead (PRN 50798). It is stone rubble built with a pitched slate roof and red brick chimney stacks on either gable.

It stands to two storeys, with windows to either side of the door at lower and upper level, the frontage slightly offset to the right (NE) suggesting a larger SW gable fireplace. Side walls are blind. A two storey annex, with high red brick chimney stack abuts the rear wall. It features a doorway with window openings at lower and upper level and a window in the NE end wall. Buildings are shown at this location on the Old Series map of 1831 and the tithe map (1840), although none can be positively identified as the farmhouse until the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891. In its present form, the farmhouse appears to date to the later nineteenth century. The interior was not seen.

The farmhouse is now redundant but remains in a stable condition.

Recommendations

The building should be maintained in a stable condition using materials and techniques that are appropriate to those of its original construction.

Site Category B



PRN 50799- the farmhouse at Blaen-cwm



PRN 50800- the combination farm building at Blaen-cwm

PRN	50800	Site Name	BLAEN-CWM	Grid Reference	SN46882582
Site Type	COMBINATION FARM BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A derelict combination threshing barn, lofted stable and possible cow shed, on the SW side of the farmyard at Blaen-cwm. It is of whitewashed rubble stone with a state roof and brick dressings. The lofted stable to the north features a narrow wooden panel door and small window to the right. Access to the loft is by a narrow door up a low set of stone steps in the gable end. The threshing barn occupies the southern two thirds of the building. Two large opposing wooden doors are positioned centrally in the building and would originally have opened onto the threshing floor. The front door features a projecting canopy which would have served to extend the threshing floor and protect the barn doors. The area south of the threshing floor is lofted. A low bay beneath the loft, accessed by two narrow doors from the farmyard may have provided accommodation for cattle originally. A narrow door (now blocked) provides further access from the rear. A lean to against the south gable including a cart shed and pigsties is a later addition.

Even though buildings appear at this location on earlier maps (Ordnance Survey Old Series 1831, tithe map 1840) this range cannot be positively identified until the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891.

It is now falling into disrepair. Many of the roof slates are loose and some are now lost. Localised lime mortar erosion is a concern and masonry is at risk of becoming displaced in places. The lean to is now ruinous and partially roofless.

Recommendations

The building should be maintained in a stable condition using materials and techniques that are appropriate to those of its original construction.

Ideally the roof should be restored using similar materials and techniques to those used originally. The walls would benefit from some selective masonry consolidation and re-pointing using a similar lime mortar mix.

Site Category B

PRN	50801	Site Name	BRYN- AMLWG	Grid Reference	SN46812622
Site Type	COTTAGE	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A cottage or minor farmstead first seen on the tithe map (c.1840) to the south of an area of unenclosed land known as Mynyddystyfflau-carn. It is marked as intact on the 1964 Ordnance Survey map but has since been demolished. No visible traces survive today.

Recommendations

Buried archaeological remains should be protected from damage. The area within 15 metres of the edge of this location should no be ploughed or subjected to any ground disturbing activities.

Site Category B

PRN	50802	Site Name	PEN-TWYN	Grid Reference	SN47242615
Site Type	FARMSTEAD	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A small farmstead, consisting of two buildings arranged in an L-shape, to the south of Mynyddystyfflau-carn. It first appears on the Old Series, 1 inch to 1 mile, Ordnance Survey map of 1831 but is marked as abandoned by the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1964. No structural traces of the farmstead survive intact today. The buildings and enclosures have been bulldozed into a large mound c.20m in diameter and 2m high.

Recommendations

No specific management recommendations can be made in this instance.

Site Category B

PRN	50803	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48382537
Site Type	PLATFORM; BUILDING?	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A rectangular platform, (c. 8m N-S by 6m E-W) built onto a shallow slope above the stream at Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn. The original function of the platform is not known, although it occupies a similar position to one of the buildings shown on the parish tithe map (1841?). It lies within a pasture field which is grazed periodically.

Recommendations

The area within 5 metres from the edge of the platform should not be subjected to any ground disturbing activities or used as a location for feeding livestock.

Site Category B

PRN	50804	Site Name	MELIN- LLWYN- GWYN	Grid Reference	SN48412536
Site Type	AGRICULTURAL BUILDING	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A small building, now destroyed, within a small enclosure to the northeast of Melin-Llwyn-Gwyn. It appears, on the 25 inches to 1 mile Ordnance Survey map of 1906 where it is marked with open sides. It lies close to the cottage/ cowshed (PRN 50679) and may have served an agricultural function.

Only the low eroded remains of the east wall survive today (c. 5m wide and 0.5m high). The site of the building and enclosure now lie within a pasture field which is grazed periodically.

Recommendations

Buried and earthwork remains of the building should be protected from damage. The interior of the enclosure should not be subjected to any ground disturbing activities or used as a location for feeding livestock.

Site Category B

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

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Tithe Map & Apportionment 1839 Llanpumsaint Parish

Other Sources

Cadw/ ICOMOS 1998 The Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.
Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2001 The Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project

Aerial Photographs

RAF 1946 106G/UK.1625. 3130. 3131
Meridian Airmaps 1955/240-220 20051-

**Wenallt
W/12/4144**

REPORT NUMBER 2004-54

4th May 2004

This report has been prepared by William Steele

Position Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

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

Wenallt

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/4144
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 49867
National Grid Reference SN48192553

— 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

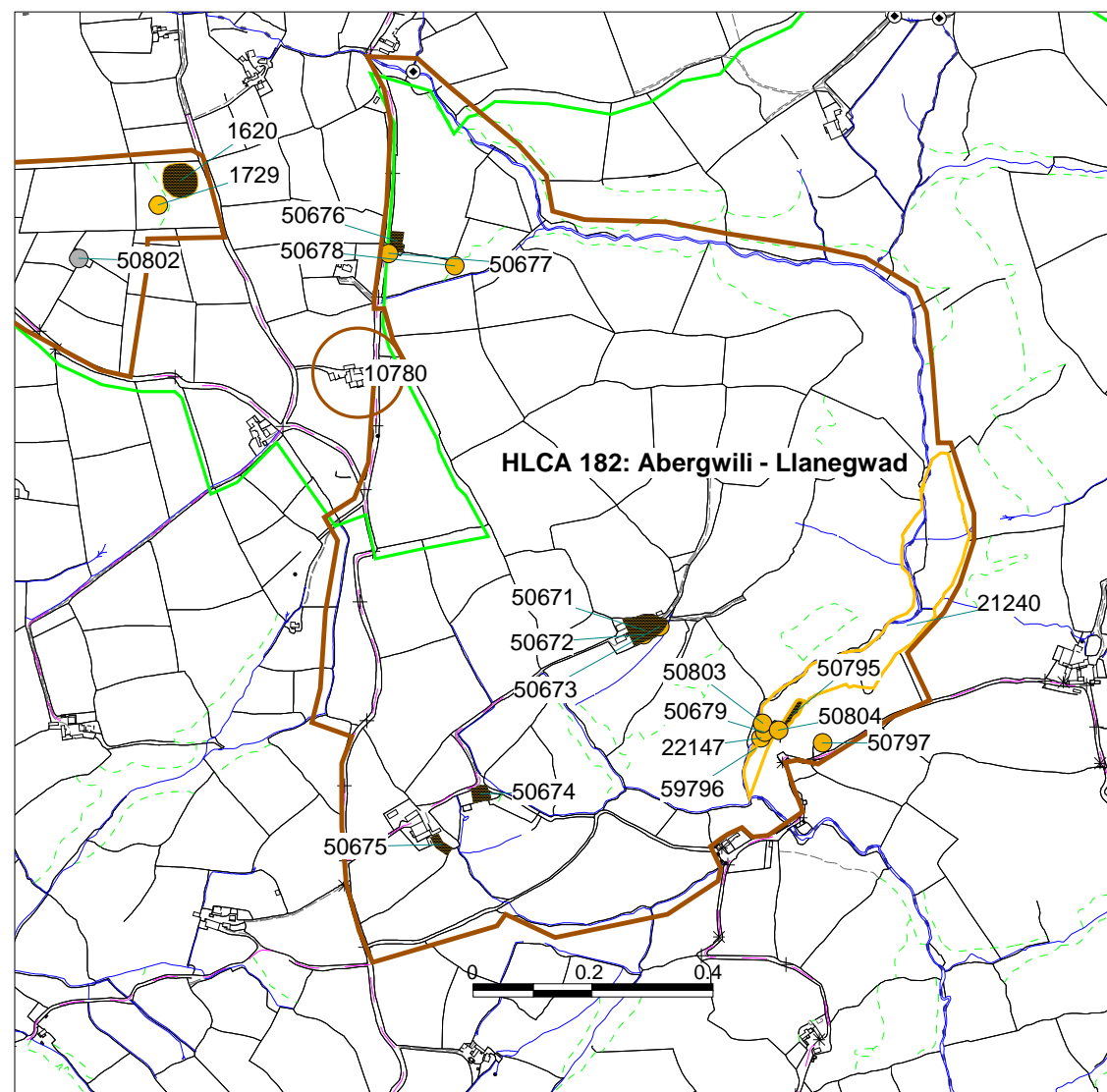
Site Category D – Minor and damaged sites

● Sites of minor importance or sites that are too
damaged to justify inclusion in a higher category.

Site Category U- Unknown Importance

● Sites needing further investigation and sites with
no physical definition.

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-  Farm Boundary
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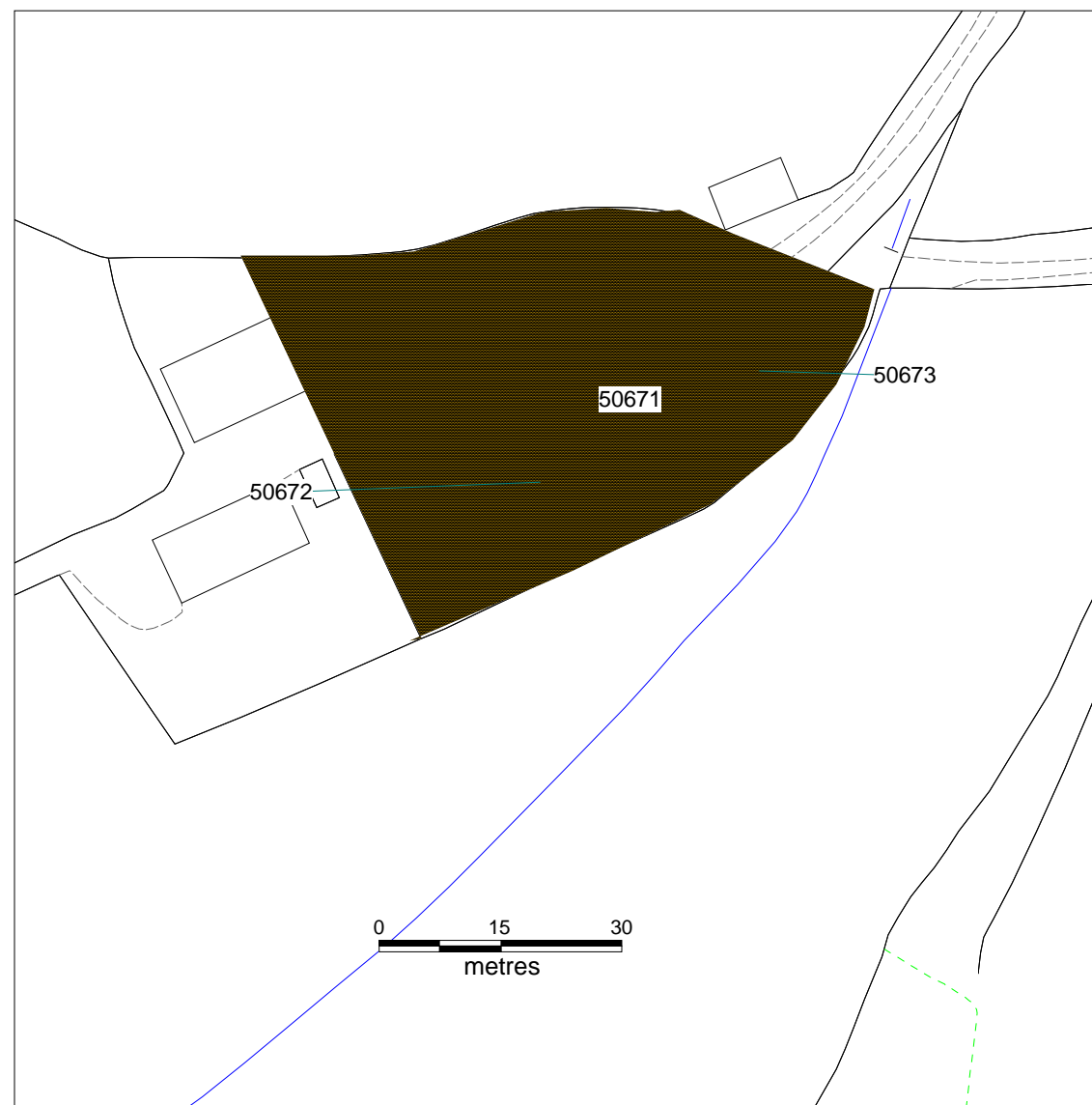
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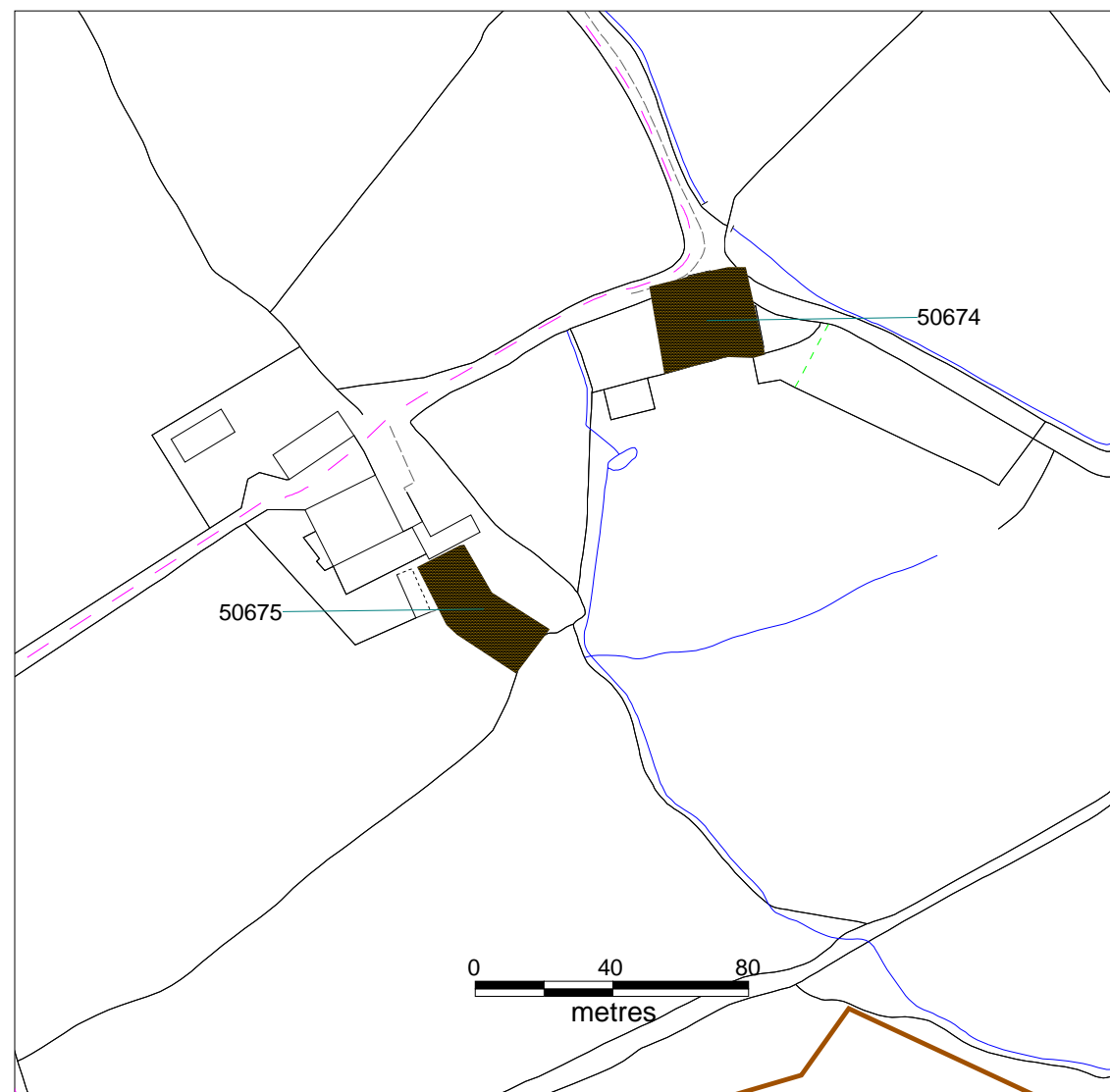
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National Grid Reference SN48392535


 Farm Boundary
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Site Category B - Regional Importance

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Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

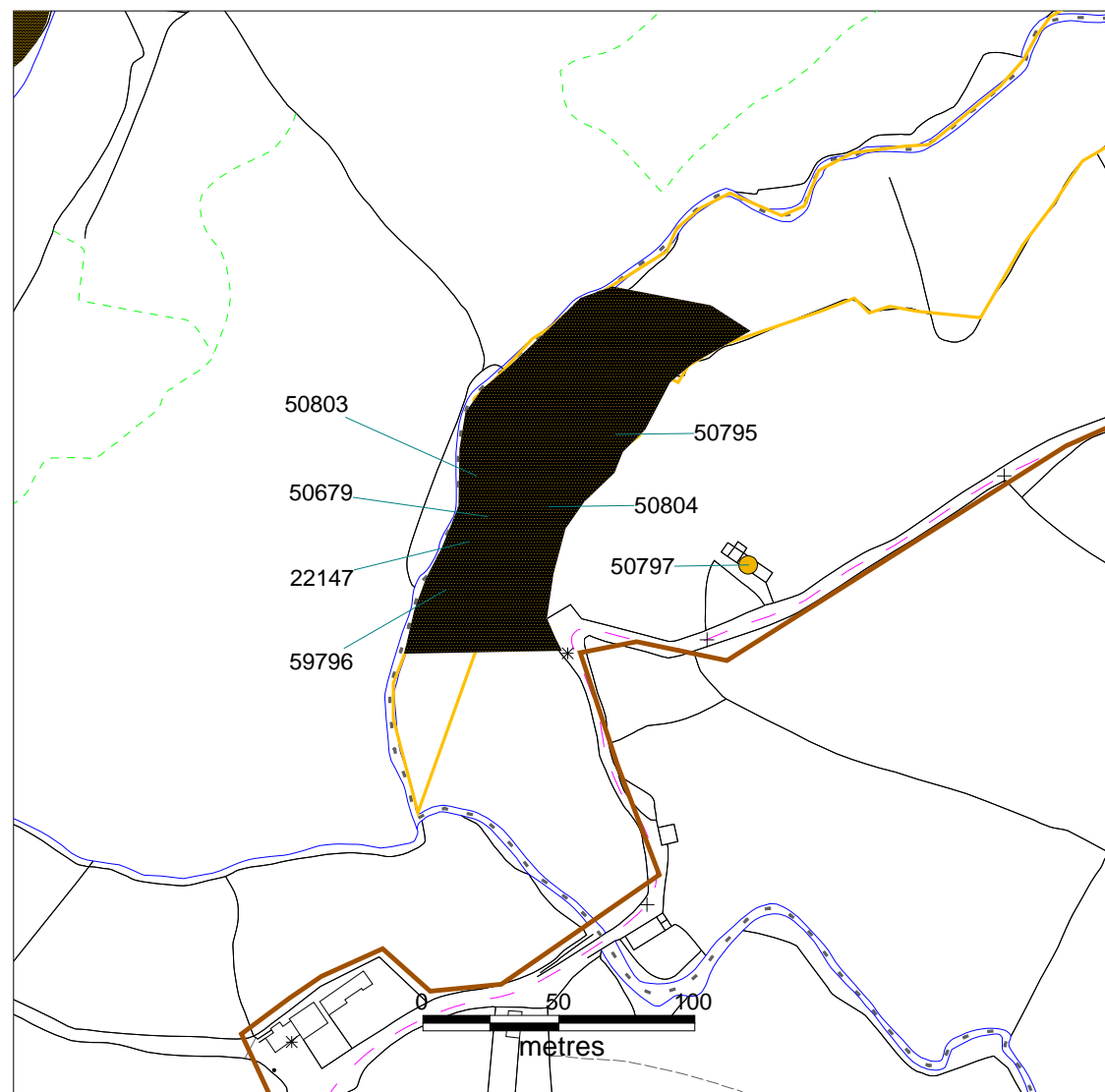
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Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN49867
National Grid Reference SN46862584


 Farm Boundary
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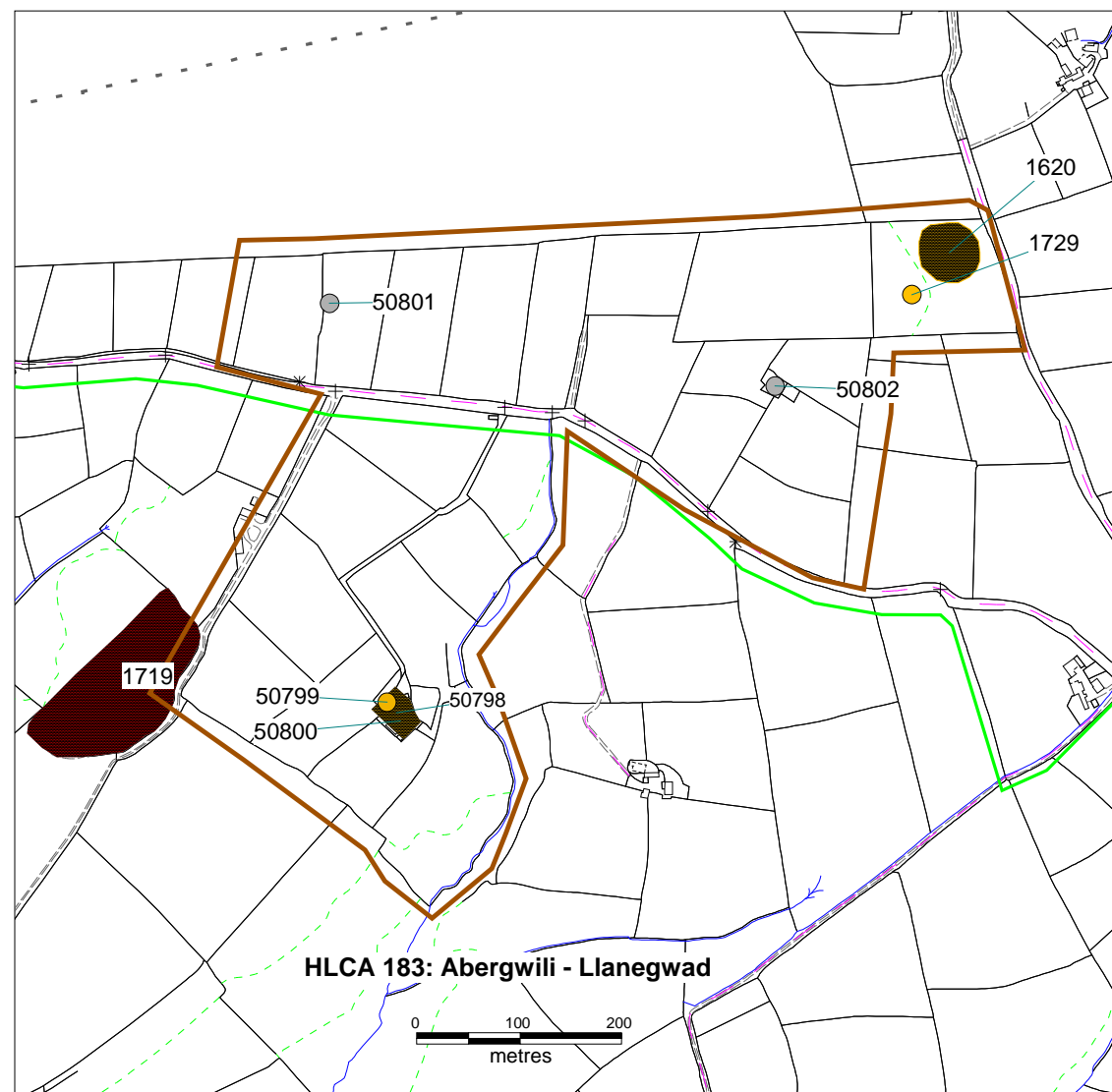
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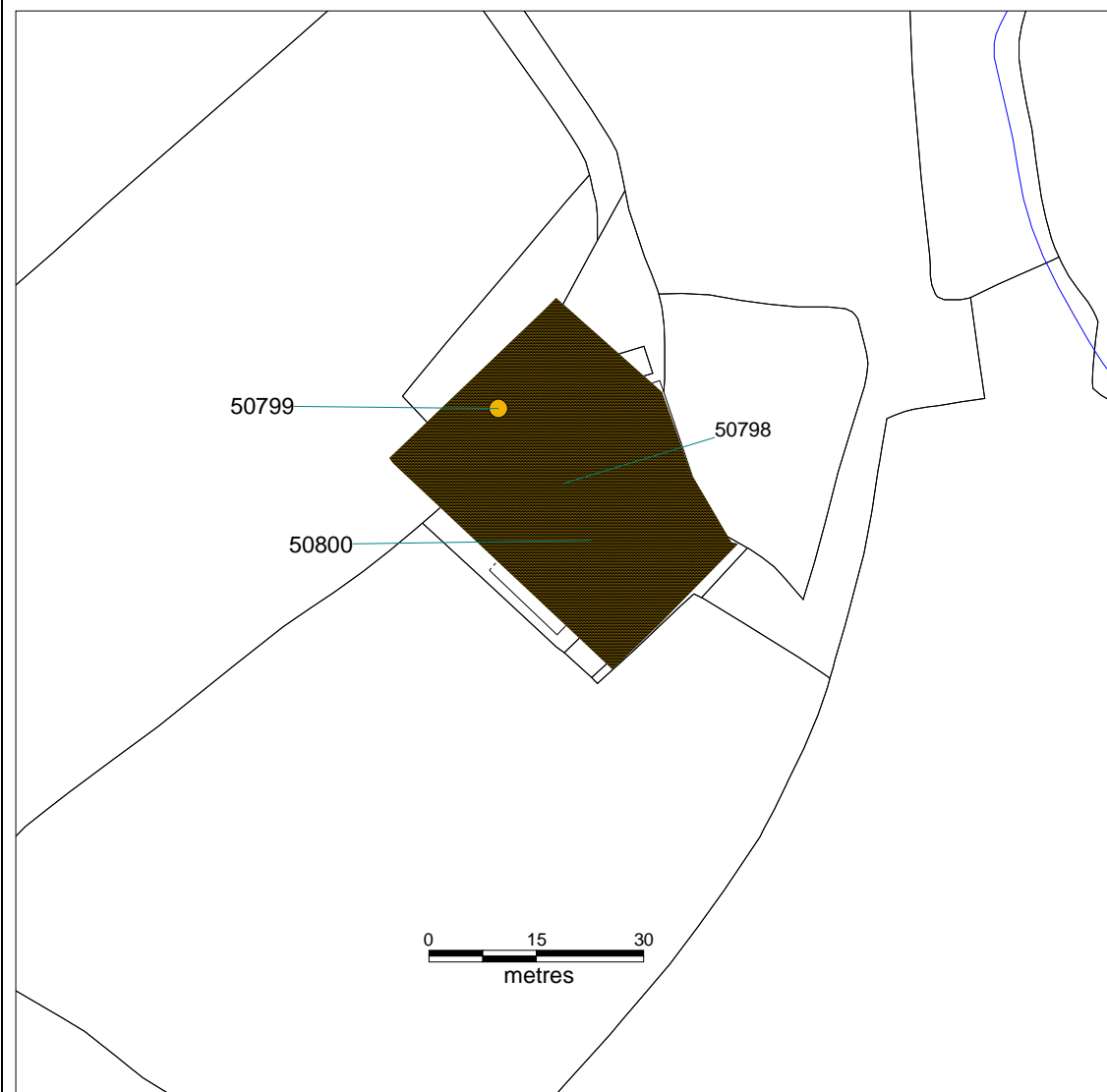
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Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/12/4144b.
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 49867
National Grid Reference SN41973115


 Farm Boundary
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


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Site Category B - Regional Importance

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Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

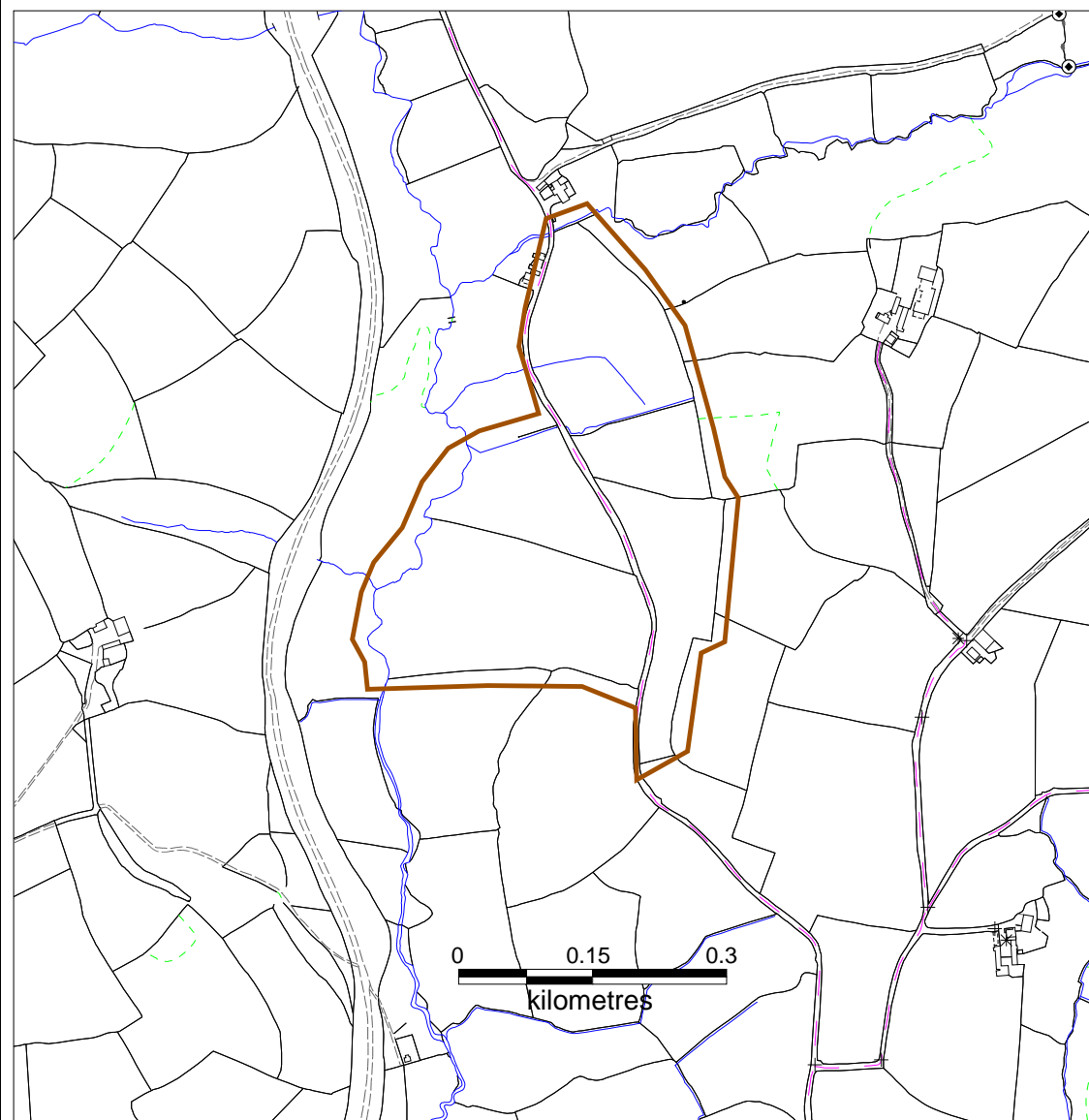
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CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 183 ABERGWILI - LLANEGWAD PARISH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 477247

AREA IN HECTARES: 5017.00

Historic Background

A large area north of the River Tywi. To the south it is dominated by three bluffs overlooking the river, the eastern of which was occupied by the large hillfort at Merlin's Hill. This may have been the centre of a large territory (taking in most of Area 183) and might have approached *oppidum* status - it has been suggested that the population was forcibly cleared to the new Roman town of *Moridunum* (Williams 1988, 11). However, there is no demonstrable physical evidence for any Iron Age field systems in the area. Much of the area's subsequent development was affected by its association with the main Roman road into West Wales, which forms the southern limit of the area (see below). During the historic period most of the area lay within the southern half of the commote, and later hundred, of Widiada (Rees 1932). This was acquired by King Henry I soon after the establishment of the castle at Carmarthen (James 1980, 23) and was held from the crown as the part of the 'Honour' of Carmarthen. The eastern part of the area, east of the River Cothi, lay within the commote/hundred of Cetheiniog, which was held of the independent Welsh lordship of Cantref Mawr until 1284 when the two areas were united with the establishment of the county of Carmarthen. The relative homogeneity of the present landscape may represent a historical unity of land-use - much of the area lies above 200 m and may always have been pasture. The church and borough of Abergwili was a possession of the Bishops of St Davids and the 'Bishop's mill' lies within this area; there is no evidence, however, for extensive episcopal agricultural holdings. The south-eastern part of the area belonged within Maenor Frwnws, an extensive grange belonging to Talley Abbey which extended into Area 191 (Richards 1974, 119). It may have formed part of the original grant by Rhys ap Gruffydd during the 1180s-90s and is mentioned in 1324 and 1589 (*ibid.*). The later Manorial Roll of Talley, of 1633 (Owen 1894, 92-107), gives the location and extent of most of Talley's granges but Maenor Frwnws was omitted, possibly due to its having been split up. Neither its tenorial, agricultural or pastoral customs are known, but it is likely that, in common with most other granges, land was let and farmed by tenants who established the precursors to the modern farms. Within the curtilage of the grange lies St Michael, Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili ('Llanfihangel Llechweilir') which, however, was always a chapel-of-ease to Abergwili parish and therefore a possession of St Davids Cathedral (Ludlow 1998). A possible Knights Hospitaller holding is reflected in the place-name Yspty Ifan but this has yet to be established. No gentry estates appear to have developed from Talley land within this area and the nearby Wern-drefi house, from the 17th century, appears not to occupy former monastic land (Jones 1987, 196). There were, however, a number of early gentry houses within the area including Castell Pigyn, which belonged to the bishop in 1561 (Jones 1987, 26) but was later privately owned. Gilfach-y-berthog is said to date from 1327 and was possibly the home of Llewelyn Foethus who established a chapel near Allt-y-ferin, Cwmgwili was in existence by c.1460, Hendre Hedog belonged to the Lloyds of Llansteffan in 1575, Allt-y-gôg, Gelli-fergam, Hengil and Pen-y-banc Ucha had been established by 1600, and Beili-glas, Esgair-holiw, Pant-yr-ystrad and Pen-y-banc Issa by at least the 17th century (Jones 1987). None of these was the centre of a large estate and there are no estate landscapes within this area. Industry has left its mark in Felingwm where a number of mills, of varying function, were powered by the fast-flowing Cothi, and a number of former lead mines were sunk in the area of the bluffs overlooking the Tywi. Twentieth century development has been minimal, but modern development has occurred along the A485 road, resulting in linear development and small nucleations at Peniel and Rhydargaeau.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Despite its very large size, this historic landscape area is coherent, comprising as it does rolling hills of enclosed pasture and dispersed farms. From the junction of the valley floor of the River Tywi to the south at 15 m above sea level, this area rises steeply to over 100 m, and continues to rise in a series of rounded hills interspersed with deeply incised valleys to over 240 m. Valley sides are steep and often cloaked with ancient deciduous woodland. However, most of this area is enclosed under rich pasture, with the vast majority improved grazing and very little rough grazing and unimproved land. Fields are small- to medium-sized and irregular. Boundaries are universally of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained at lower levels, though gaps are opening in some

examples. At higher altitudes there is a tendency for them to be neglected and here there is some dereliction. Wire fences supplement most boundaries. Distinctive hedgerow trees are present, but not common. The old established settlement pattern is predominantly one of dispersed farms, with clustering at White Mill and Felingwm-uchaf. Modern ribbon development has taken place along main roads. Within this area are three important routeways. The most important is the east-west corridor along the southern limits in the Tywi valley along the interface between the alluvium and the solid geology of the north side of the river. Here the A40(T) - which in 1999 was upgraded as part of the Carmarthen eastern bypass - is based on a turnpike route, which in turn follows the course of the Carmarthen to Llandovery Roman road. Running close to the western boundary of the area is the north-to-south A485 Carmarthen to Llandeilo road which also follows the general course of a Roman road. The B4310 runs north-to-south across the eastern section of the area.

Recorded archaeology from such a large landscape area takes in a range of sites from all periods. However, notable sites include the large hillfort at Merlin's Hill and the Roman road. Prehistoric and Medieval archaeology relates primarily to agricultural land-use but Post-Medieval features include chapels, mills and lead mine shafts.

St Michael, Llanfihangel-uwch-Gwili, a landmark church with Medieval origins and an unusual early 17th-century tower is Grade B listed. Few of the gentry houses retain early fabric but Cwmgwili, mentioned in c.1460, now mainly 18th century but with 16th- or 17th-century features, is Grade II listed. Gilfach-y-berthog was extensively remodelled in 1692 and is Grade II* listed, with Grade II listed stables and barn. The 18th- and 19th-century White Mill is Grade II listed. Gelli-fergam, mentioned in the late 16th-century is now a substantial double-piled house with a walled garden. Esgair-holiw retains no early features but is associated with a former water-mill. Traditionally farms are stone-built, two-storey, three-bay and generally of 19th century date and in the vernacular tradition, though there are examples in the more 'polite' Georgian style. Farms have one or two ranges of stone-built, 19th century outbuildings, very occasionally arranged semi-formally around a yard, together with modern agricultural buildings. Modern dwellings tend to be in small estates at Peniel and Rhydargaeau, in ribbon development alongside the A485, or as dispersed houses which are mostly situated alongside the main roads. This modern development is in a variety of styles and materials.

The boundary of this area to the south against Ystrad Tywi (Area 182) is very well defined at the foot of the valley floor. To the north there is similar good definition where high common land enclosed by Act of Parliament in the 19th century provides a distinctive landscape signature. Area 191 to the southeast is very similar in character to this area, but generally of lower altitude - there is no clear-cut boundary between the two. Areas to the east and west have yet to be defined, but they contain many similar components to Abergwili-Llanegwad Parish historic character area.

Conservation priorities

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Modern ribbon development is also starting to affect the character of this area along the main route corridors. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

Ground photograph: 49

Aerial photographs: 40

