

Archaeoleg Cambria  
Neuadd y Sir  
Stryd Caerfyrddin  
Llandeilo  
Sir Gaerfyrddin  
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131  
Ffacs 01558 823133  
Ebost: cambria@acadat.com

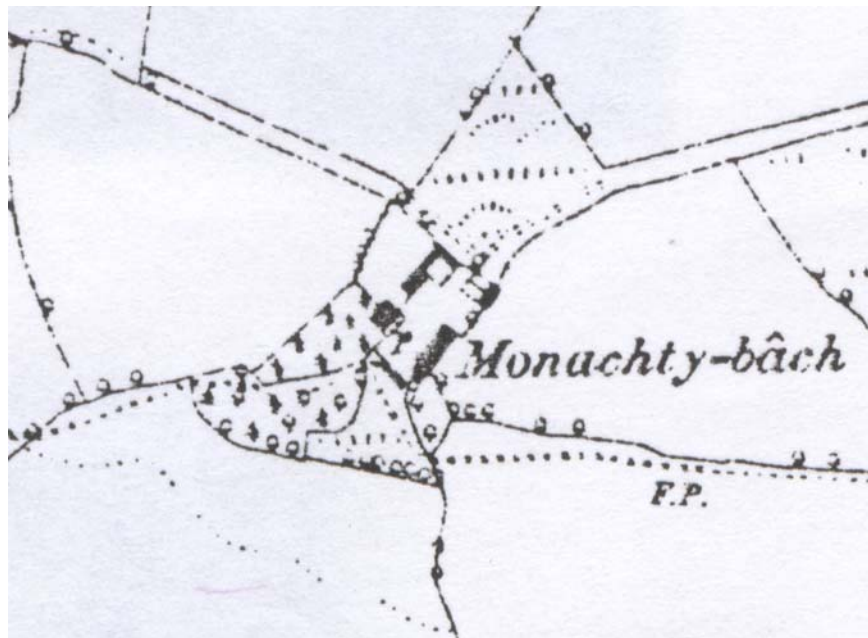


Cambria Archaeolog  
The Shire Hall  
Carmarthen Street  
Llandeilo  
Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131  
Fax 01558 823133  
Email: cambria@acadat.com

**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:  
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION  
CALL OUT REPORT**

Prepared for:  
**Monachty-bach**



Detail of Monachty-bach farmstead (Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1891)

Tir Gofal Reference No  
**W/11/4513**

Prepared by  
**Will Steele**

Report No. **2005/42**  
Project No. **50521**

## **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 issues regarding specific sites on the home farm, it does not provide management advice for all known sites within the application area, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).

### **Historic Landscape Character**

Monachty-bach is centred on SN50256246 in Dyffryn Arth community, Ceredigion. The farm occupies a gentle north facing slope above the Afon Arth just over a kilometre from Pennant village. The surrounding area is undulating with fields divided by low earth banks and hedges. Woodland is present along some of the steeper valleys but is not a common landscape component.

Less than half a kilometre to the south lies Monachty. The park, pleasure grounds and extensive plantations add an estate landscape feel to the environs of this spacious Georgian mansion and home farm.

### **Archaeological and Historic Content**

The area surrounding Monachty was connected to the Abbey of Strata Florida in medieval times (PRN 12409). It was formerly named Crugypebyll (Jones 2000, 197) but is known as Monachty in the 17<sup>th</sup> century when owned by Lewis David Gwyn of Trawsgoed (Cadw 1996, 20). The present house (PRN 7040) was built in the mid-nineteenth century on the site of an earlier building. It is Grade II\* listed as a well preserved country house of the Georgian period with good detail of c1750 and c1830 and lies within an extensive designed landscape of plantations, parks and pleasure grounds. The Gwyn family connection was a long one and the Gwyns resided at Monachty until the 1930s. Their influence was great and it was they who built Aberaeron village and quay following a private Act Of Parliament c1800 (Jones 2000, 198).

Monachty-bach was one of the many estate farms owned by the Gwyns. The tithe map (1843) records the extent of their estate as well as providing other information and it is interesting to note that the extent of the farm is unchanged from that recorded in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Estate influence is apparent in the formal arrangement of the buildings, and map evidence suggests that the farmstead was remodelled, if not completely rebuilt in the mid-late nineteenth century. The farmstead is significant in that it retains many of its nineteenth century features including a threshing barn, fold yard, pig sties and a poultry shed.

A call out visit was requested to assess the intended restoration of some of the buildings and consider priorities over the distribution of capital works money.

**The following generic management prescriptions apply. Specific management recommendations for individual buildings are included in the following gazetteer.**

## **Historic Environment Objectives**

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

## **Generic Management Prescriptions**

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

Name and PRN	Period and Site Type	NGR	Status
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Monachty-bach 51806	Post Medieval Farmstead	SN50256246	B
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A working farmstead located on the southern slope of the Arth valley. Map evidence suggests that the complex was remodelled if not completely rebuilt in the mid-late nineteenth century, when under the ownership of the Gwyns of Monachty, and the buildings are ranged around all sides of a rectangular yard in a fashion typical of estate influence. It is of slate and stone construction and retains many nineteenth century features typical of a medium sized mixed arable and livestock farm, including threshing barn, fold yard, pig sties and a poultry shed. Modern buildings are situated behind the historic core and the farmstead retains good historic character.

Some of the outbuildings are falling into disrepair but it is intended that they will be restored.

### **Management Recommendations**

Management recommendations for individual buildings are provided below.

Monachty-bach 53420	Post Medieval Threshing Barn	SN50276248	B
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A stone built threshing barn under a slate roof with opposing small doorways at one end and two additional doorways in the front wall. Internally the building is open to the roof with no evidence that any of the bays were originally lofted. Surviving original features include the threshing floor with stone flags, a fly wheel in the rear wall and nest boxes for pigeons under the eaves in the front wall.

The barn probably dates to the later nineteenth century as identified by map evidence (OS 1889). It is well maintained having been re-roofed in recent years. Roof felt is a recent addition.

### **Management recommendations**

The threshing barn has recently been restored. No specific recommendations.

Monachty-bach 53421	Post Medieval Shelter Shed	SN50286249	B
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An L-plan stone built cattle shelter with a pitched slate roof at Monachty-bach. It is open fronted and forms two sides of a square fold yard. Square stone piers at two and a half metre intervals support the roof and there is an attached cart shed in the yard-facing gable end. A *tô brat* slating pattern with intervals left between slates adds to the interest of the building. This characteristic is now becoming increasingly rare in the region.

Map evidence gives a later nineteenth century date for the range.

The shelter shed is derelict and falling into disrepair. The roof is collapsed at the corner where the two ranges meet and there is some decay in the roof timbers. There is also some localised masonry displacement, including in some of the stone piers.



### Management recommendations

The restoration and maintenance of this building should be considered a priority. It is an important element of the mid-late nineteenth century farmstead group and gains further status as a distinctive and unusual building in its own right.

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following is emphasised:

- Repairs should be based on an ethos of repair over replacement as far as is practicably possible in order to preserve the historic character of the building.
- Care should be taken to re-use the maximum number of old slates possible. New slates should, ideally match the type, colour, texture, size and thickness of the existing ones. New slates can be mixed with old ones across the roof or reserved for less prominent slopes. In particular the unusual existing slating pattern should be replicated.

<b>Monachty-bach 53422</b>	<b>Post Medieval Combination Farm Building</b>	<b>SN50276245</b>	<b>B</b>
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Opposite the farmhouse at Monachty-bach is a large slate and rubble stone outbuilding. The range incorporates a cartshed and stable with granary above, an attached cow shed, and a small poultry house on one end. Loose boxes line the rear wall below the eaves.

The cartshed, stable and granary is central within the range and retains the original square headed openings with wooden lintels. The stable, to the left of the cart shed has a wide doorway with windows on either side and the cartshed has one wide entrance for a single cart. The granary is positioned above and features two openings positioned symmetrically in the front wall; one above the stable and one above the cart shed, the latter being reached by a set of stone steps. Plank divisions for the storage of grain remain inside. The cow shed, now much altered and obscured in part by a modern shed, comprises the left half of the range and probably featured several doorways in the front wall in the fashion of the time. At the opposite end of this range, in the corner of the yard is an insignificant looking building which from the size of one of the doorways would seem to have served as a poultry house. The loose boxes against the rear wall of the range were accessed either from the outside or from inside the cow shed or stable.

The range probably dates to the later nineteenth century although map evidence suggests that there was probably an earlier building on the same site. It is now falling into disrepair with many displaced and missing slates and timber decay in the roof and floor joists. Sections of the rear wall are unstable and in varying stages of collapse. There is some vegetation around the lower end of the building.



## **Management recommendations**

The restoration and maintenance of this building should be considered a priority. It is a central element of the historic farmstead plan and its ongoing deterioration would be to the detriment of the group as a whole. It is not a particularly unusual building but is historically interesting and retains many of its original features. In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following is emphasised.

- Repairs should be based on an ethos of repair over replacement as far as is practicably possible in order to preserve the historic character of the building.
- Care should be taken to re-use the maximum number of old slates possible. New slates should, ideally match the type, colour, texture, size and thickness of the existing ones. New slates can be mixed with old ones across the roof or reserved for less prominent slopes.
- The collapsing rear wall is a safety concern. If this part of the building is not repaired, it will be possible to remove unstable sections taking care to retain as much of the intact historic fabric as possible.

Monachty-bach 53423	Post Medieval Pigsty	SN50266243	B
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A double in-and-out pigsty of rubble stone under a slate roof with a heavily built stone yard positioned against each of the side walls. It is different from the most common arrangement where two parallel yards typically back onto just one wall.

Map evidence suggests a late nineteenth century date. The building is now falling into disrepair with some displaced slates, decay in the roof trusses and unstable walls.



### **Management recommendations**

The pigsty is a lesser element of the historic farmstead group but it does contribute to group value by partly defining the lower end of the yard.

It is hoped that the buildings will be restored (Generic Management Prescriptions) but if this cannot be achieved the management aim should be to slow down the deterioration of the building.

The following should be considered:

- Cut back any vegetation or young trees growing on or near the walls leaving the roots *in situ*. This will prevent displacement of masonry by uprooting or collapse.

<b>Monachty-bach 53424</b>	<b>Post Medieval Shed</b>	<b>SN50256244</b>	<b>B</b>
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A small stone built shed and annex under a slate roof.

Map evidence suggests a later nineteenth century date. The building is now derelict with displaced and missing slates, decay in the roof trusses and unstable walls.



### **Management recommendations**

The shed is a minor element of the historic farmstead group but it does contribute to group value by partly defining the lower end of the yard.

It is hoped that it will be restored (Generic Management Prescriptions) but if this cannot be achieved the management aim should be to slow down the deterioration of the building.

The following should be considered:

- Cut back any vegetation or young trees growing on or near the walls leaving the roots *in situ*. This will prevent displacement of masonry by uprooting or collapse.

**References**

Cadw 1996 Buildings of Special Arcitectural or Historic Interest: Dyffryn Arth and Ciliau Aeron. Cadw Welsh Historic Monuments.

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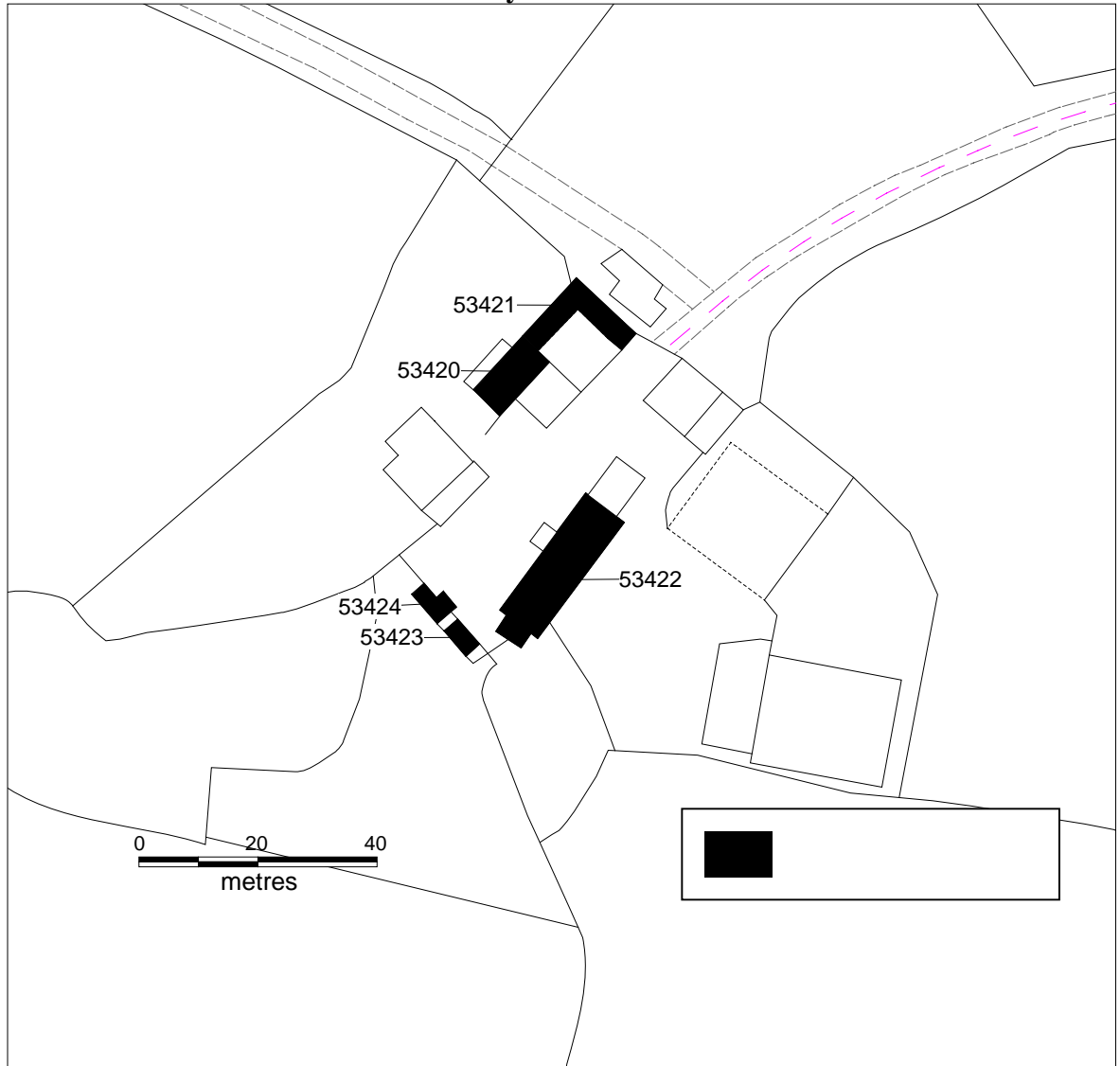
Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire Sheet 19 SW, 6"

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Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire Sheet 19.SW, 6""

Tithe Map & Apportionment 1843 Llanbadarn Trefeglwys Parish.

## Monachty-bach farmstead



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