

ABERPORTH AIRFIELD, BLAENANNERCH, CEREDIGION

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED SURVEY

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Aberporth Airfield,
Blaenannerch, Ceredigion
An archaeological desk-top survey

By

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ABERPORTH AIRFIELD, CEREDIGION

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK TOP SURVEY,
APRIL 2004**

Project Record No. 50862

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1.0 SUMMARY

A level 1 building survey was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on behalf of the Welsh Development Agency, of military buildings at Aberporth Airfield prior to the demolition of the buildings and redevelopment of the site. Based on various cartographic sources, photographic records and a field visit, phases of development and alteration to buildings, and the site as a whole, have been suggested. A descriptive gazetteer, plans and exterior photographs are presented in this report. Further documentary research proved unfruitful, or beyond the scope of this project.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This desk top survey was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations in response to a request from the Welsh Development Agency (WDA) to carry out the recording of surviving buildings at the former Aberporth Airfield, and to provide further documentary research into the site and its use as a Polish resettlement camp after the Second World War. The former airfield is to be redeveloped by the WDA as a business park. The work is to be carried out in two phases, the first phase, initially involving the demolition of the existing airfield buildings.

The airfield (PRN30594) is situated to the north of the settlement of Blaenannerch within the parish of Aberporth, at OS map reference SN 2550049500. The underlying geology of the site is of Llandeilo to Ashgill rock comprising Argillaceous rocks with subequal interbedded strata of sandstone.

A previous archaeological assessment of the airfield was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment on behalf of White Young Green Environmental Consultancy. This assessment included a comprehensive search of reference sources for background to the history of the airfield. This assessment suggested that “fuller search of plans and aerial photographs will be undertaken than was possible in the initial survey, to ensure that all original fabric is identified and that a complete development history can be established. Further research will also be undertaken on the Polish resettlement camp. This will comprise local investigations into peoples’ memories of the site as well as wider documentary research. Contact could also be made with the Federation of Poles in Great Britain to determine whether they have members with recollections of the camp at Aberporth.”

A field survey also undertaken as part of the assessment was unable to gain access to buildings, or to photograph within the airfield site for reasons of security. After the site was vacated, however, security restrictions were lifted, and a photographic and video survey of the exterior and interior of the buildings was undertaken by Jones Brothers, Henllan Ltd. before the stripping and demolition of the airfield buildings was commenced. Some of these photographs are included in this report.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The project objectives as outlined in the project brief set by Cambria Archaeology (Development Control) were to record through further research and written descriptions, the history of the surviving airfield buildings, identifying and recording all original elements of the buildings (conforming to level 1 as defined in ‘Recording Historic Buildings’- a descriptive specification issued by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England 1990). This level of recording is minimal, generally comprising of a photographic record of the building exterior, a brief description of the building and an identification of its location. In addition, this report, and a project archive were to be produced.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

A site visit was undertaken as part of the present assessment during the stripping and demolition of the buildings. Because several of the buildings were being dismantled simultaneously and asbestos was being removed (and because of other health and safety issues) it was not possible to make a photographic or descriptive record for some of the buildings. It was considered that the photographic survey undertaken by Lewis Jones already provided sufficiently detailed coverage of the interior and exterior of the buildings from which descriptions could be derived. Unfortunately, some buildings not included in the photographic survey, were in the process of being demolished during the site visit, and could not be recorded.

Archive records for inclusion within the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), were created for all buildings associated with the airfield that could be identified either on cartographic coverage of the site or during the site visit. Edited versions of these records are presented in the Gazetteer (section 6 of this report).

Attempts were made to follow up on various potential documentary sources relating to the airfield. In the event, as was the case with the initial assessment, most of these searches proved unfruitful and little additional information was identified. Wider research into the history of the Polish community in Britain, and the politics, administrative details, and activities of the Polish Armed Forces Resettlement Corps and the Official Committee for Polish Forces and Civilian Refugees, were beyond the practical scope of this report. Consequently, documents relating to these subjects, held in the Public Records Office at Kew, were not consulted as part of this research.

Two useful plans of the airfield were supplied by DERA (Brecon). Both show the airfield buildings numbered. One (WA9/287/58) is an Air Ministry plan dated to 1958. The other (DRG No. RAE/Ab 1203 B) is a plan drawn in 1955, and amended between 1960 and 1972. The numbered buildings refer to a schedule of buildings (DRG No. WA9/288/58) which has not as yet been located. Other drawings (numbered C:DWGS\2460-86) were referred to in the LUAU report. Although apparently in existence somewhere, these were not located during this project. Other cartographic evidence was obtained from Ordnance Survey maps, one dated 1948, the other 1977.

5.0 RESULTS

As a consequence of the dearth of additional resources that could be located during this project, the results of the survey are limited primarily to producing a record of the demolished airfield buildings based on the photographic record and observed structural details. The development of, and alterations to the buildings is based on analysis of differences between cartographic representations of the site, and on observed differences in building fabric.

5.1 The pre-airfield landscape

During the medieval period, the Ceredigion landscape was characterised by a pattern of dispersed farm settlements and hamlets, each surrounded by enclosed field systems.

Between these settlements was unenclosed common land used grazing livestock (Parkinson 1985, 118). As population densities increased, more and more land was enclosed.

The earliest cartographic evidence for the landscape around Aberporth Airfield is from the 1839 tithe map, by which time most of the open land between settlements had been enclosed. The only recorded settlement within the airfield itself is Pen y cnwc cottage. This is represented on the tithe map but was abandoned by the time the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was published in 1887.

5.2 History and development of the airfield

The area of Aberporth Airfield occupies land that was under the ownership of several estates when the airfield was planned at the start of the 2nd World War. Vacant possession of the land was given to the Air Ministry on 29th September 1939 and the freehold was purchased between 1939 and 1941. The conveyance deeds are dated 1942. The airfield opened in 1940 as an anti aircraft co-operation base for the gunnery ranges in Cardigan Bay and later in the war it was used for aircrew training. The airfield forms part of a 'stop line', defending against possible invasion from the coast.

Aberporth Airfield consisted of an open expanse of grassland. The perimeter of the original site was defended by a series of 14 intervisible pillboxes (see Figure 1). These are of various designs, including probable examples of Types 22, 24, and 27. Two of the pillboxes appear to lie beyond the perimeter of the airfield, to the east and west of the site.

Four structures on the periphery of the site, but represented on the 1948 map, are of unknown function. PRNs 50928 and 50929 are the surviving foundations of demolished buildings in the south-west corner of the site. PRN 50930 is another demolished structure of unknown function on the north-east perimeter. PRN 50936 is a structure of unknown function located within a compound to the west of the B4333, south-west of the main building compound PRN 30594. This is shown as being accessed by tarmac driveways from the B4333.

The perimeter of the airfield as represented on the 1977 OS map, is little altered from the 1948 map, except for the encroachment of agricultural fields on the north and south edges of the airfield, which have effectively isolated pillboxes PRNs 50931 and 50933 from the rest of the site.

The present main runway was constructed in 1956, with a tarmac runway running approximately east-west across the middle of the site. There is also an emergency grass strip, on a north-east to south-west diagonal to the north of the main runway. The corners of the grass runway were marked by L-shaped strips of concrete. The number and position of runways in use before 1956 is not known.

The complex of airfield buildings was located on the western edge of the site. The main complex (PRN 30594) is on the east side of the B4333. On the west side of the B4333 was a smaller compound (PRN30592) containing similar buildings to those of the main site. This compound was formerly used by the Royal Navy (information supplied to LUAU by Amey Comax; DERA drawing C:DWGS\2460-86).

5.3 The original airfield buildings

The Ordnance Survey map of 1948, suggests that most of the buildings on the main site (PRN 30594) were originally constructed at the start of the airfield by 1940-41. The layout of the airfield buildings at this time is represented in Figure 3. Although the buildings are represented in simplified style, often incorporating several buildings within one building footprint, it is apparent that they are the same buildings that are represented on the later map of 1977. On balance it seems most likely that most of the differences between the maps are a result of lack of detail in the earlier map rather than suggesting that buildings have been rebuilt or significantly altered over time.

Some buildings are however, obviously not represented on the 1948 map, or are sufficiently different in form to suggest that some changes have occurred. It is only through observation of differences in style or construction on the ground, that the presence, absence or appearance of these buildings can be attributed to different constructional phases of the airfield.

Likewise, with the smaller compound (PRN 30592), although mostly similar, there are significant differences between the two map depictions.

The only clues to the original functions of the buildings that was obtainable during this project was from the site visit, and from a partially annotated plan of the site, observed during the site visit. Some of the buildings had signs indicating their functions, although it is not clear whether these were their original functions. The majority of the buildings were numbered, apparently an original feature. This numbering sequence is represented on several plans of the site, although there are some numbers missing from the sequence (see Figures 4 and 6), these may have been allotted to buildings that have been demolished in the past, or are located elsewhere.

Several buildings had names, these appear to be original, and all appear to have been barrack blocks. Some of these barracks have two names. It is not clear whether this represents two different 'phases' of occupation. The names in compound PRN 30592 include naval explorers, possibly reflecting the use of the compound by the Royal Navy, but also (apparently) famous mountaineers and inventors. The main compound includes the names of people associated with the RAF, but also with scientists and technological innovators, especially in the field of communications. The complete list of names that were identified is as follows:

Boyle / Hillary (PRN50915)
Newall / Bonnington (PRN50913)
Salmond / Cook (PRN50912)
Drake (PRN50914)
Scott (PRN50910)
Williams (PRN 50907)
Stevenson (PRN50886)
Telford (PRN50890)
Dickson / Edison (PRN50880)
Trenchard / Marconi (PRN50888)
Tedder / Whittle (PRN50881)
Slessor / Newton (PRN 50887)

Descriptions of each building and their possible functions are presented in the Gazetteer (Section 6).

Figures 3, 4 and 5 show the airfield buildings as they are represented on the maps of 1948, 1958 and 1977. PRNs for each building are indicated in Figure 5. Building footprints in Figure 3 (represented in pink), include the PRNs of all the buildings thought to be included within the building blocks depicted.

Buildings represented in grey in figure 5, are all of similar construction style and materials (see gazetteer) and are part of the original airfield complex. Some of these buildings are not however represented on the 1948 map, including PRNs 50899, 50894

Buildings represented in blue are those that had been demolished before the present demolition of the entire complex, so details of their construction are unknown. Most of these buildings are represented on the 1948 map in some form, and were therefore part of the original complex. Possible exceptions are PRNs 50884, 50883, 50882, 50917, 50905, and 50874.

Buildings represented in red are clad in corrugated iron. This suggests they may be of a different phase of construction. This is however, not certain since corrugated iron building PRN 50872 appears to be represented on the 1948 map, while PRNs 50885 and 50886 are not. PRNs 50903, 50869 and 50868, are possibly represented on the 1948 map as part of blocks incorporating several buildings, but may not be.

Features represented in yellow are air raid shelters. These are not represented on the 1948 map (with the possible exception of PRN 50943), but may never-the-less have been part of the original complex.

5.4 Additions and alterations to the buildings

The previous section suggests that the majority of the airfield buildings were built at the same time (or shortly thereafter). Some alterations to the complex are however, still apparent.

In compound PRN 30592, the only apparent modification is a flat roofed corridor linking together PRNs 50915, 50914 and 50910. In the main compound (PRN 30594), a similar flat roofed corridor appears to have been constructed, linking PRNs 50887, 50881, 50888 and 50880. The purpose of these modifications is not known.

Considering the difference in the footprints of PRN 50876 as represented on the two plans, it seems likely that this building was considerably altered. At the time of the site visit however, this building was in mid demolition, so its structural details could not be assessed. It was also not included in the photographic record of the site.

Several alterations have been made at the north end of the site. Building PRNs 50907, 50902 and 50901 appear to have been represented as one block in the 1948 plan. The eastern edge of the block is however, sufficiently different to suggest that there may have been another building to the east of PRN 50901 in the area that is now occupied by the tennis courts (PRN 50944). PRN 50903 is a corrugated iron clad building,

suggesting it is of later construction. The latest phase of construction is represented by B45, a red brick extension to the NAFFI (PRN50907), this is presumed to have been constructed in the 1970s. The group of houses was built along the northern edge of the site may also have been built at this time.

The area between PRN 50901 and 50870 is represented on the 1948 plan as an open area with a cluster of three small buildings to the south. Due to discrepancies between the plans, the identity of these buildings is uncertain. By 1977 PRN 50884 had been constructed, along with the tennis courts and several other small buildings of unknown function. Later, all these buildings were demolished and the footings of PRN50884 were used as a car park. PRN50945 also seems to have been demolished and used as a car park.

Building PRN50918, at the east of the site, is of wooden panel construction and appears to be more recent origin although it is represented on the 1977 plan. Various other small modifications to the tarmac access ways have also been made.

5.5 The Polish resettlement camp

After the Second World War Aberporth Airfield was used as a camp for Polish refugees, prior to their repatriation. It is assumed that both parts of the airfield buildings were used. As well as using the buildings at Aberporth Airfield, there was a second camp to the south of the A487, at grid reference SN2440048800. Apart from the presence of the camps being indicated on the 1948 Ordnance Survey map, no documentary evidence relating to this phase of the airfield has been identified. It is not known when the resettlement camp closed and military use recommenced, but it is assumed to have been soon after 1948. Subsequent use of the airfield buildings appears to have removed any evidence of their use as a resettlement camp. Evidence of possible relevance to further researching the resettlement camp may be contained within Treasury Document Bundle T236 which is held at the Public Records Office at Kew. This collection contains material relating to the Polish Armed Forces Resettlement Corps and the Official Committee for Polish Forces and Civilian Refugees.

5.6 Later uses of the airfield

At some time after its use as a resettlement camp, Aberporth Airfield was re-occupied by the Air Ministry. An annotated plan supplied by DERA, suggests this may have happened in 1958. The site was used as a support site with training and workshop facilities for the main missile testing and defence equipment testing range at Aberporth, 1.5km north of the airfield.

Military activities at the airfield ceased in the mid 1990s, but it continued to be used by the 636 Volunteer Gliding School and by DERA for transport and trials. The site remains in the ownership of the MOD.

There is evidence around the site in the form of signs and notices, that some buildings have more recently been used by the YMCA and as a Youth Training Centre.

6.0 GAZETTEER OF SITES

The Gazetteer entries presented here are edited versions of computerised database records (PRN 50862) held within the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held at the Cambria Archaeology Offices in Llandeilo. Refer to Figures 1, 4, 5 and 6 for location of PRNs and Building Numbers. Photographs of the exterior of most of the buildings are included at the end of this report. Photographs of the interior of the buildings are contained within the archive for this project.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 30592
NGR: SN 24564955
Site Type: Military buildings
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Group PRN for a series of barracks situated on the west side of the B4333 opposite the main airfield site. Now derelict having formerly been occupied by the royal Navy and thus distinct from the main site PRN 30594 which was RAF. It is not known whether this compound formed part of the Polish resettlement camp but it probably did.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 30594
NGR: SN 2470049500
Site Type: Military buildings
Period: 1940s
Source: SMR/OS/Field visit
Description: Group PRN for the main airfield complex on the east side of the B4333, Consisting of barracks, guardroom, Bellman hangar and numerous other structures originating in 1940. The complex was used as a Polish resettlement camp immediately after World War II.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50863
NGR: SN2472049450
Site Type: Hangar
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 1. Bellman Hangar. Not visited. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50864
NGR: SN2477049530
Site Type: Hangar
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 2. Bellman Hangar. Demolished. The footprint of this building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map as a block incorporating PRNs 50868, 50869 and 50870.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50865
NGR: SN2484049510
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 3. Air Traffic Control. Not visited.
This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: PRN 50866
NGR: SN2482049510
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 4. Function unknown. Not visited.
This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50867
NGR: SN2481049490
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 5. Function unknown. Not visited.
This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50868
NGR: SN2479049540
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 6. MT Offices/RAE Fire Brigade Quarters. A single storey building with a pitched roof of asbestos cement corrugated sheets and timber roof trusses. Sides faced with asbestos cement corrugated sheets. Timber frame windows. Brick and timber internal partitions. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map except as part of B2. Not visited.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50869
NGR: SN2478049510
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 7. Function unknown. A single storey building with a pitched roof of asbestos cement corrugated sheets. Same as PRN 50868? This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map except as part of PRN 50864. Not visited.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50870
NGR: SN2475049550
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 8. Function unknown. Demolished. May be represented on the 1948 OS map as part of PRN 50864.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50871
NGR: SN2473049520
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 9. Paint and Dope Store/Youth Training Store Room. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. Walls constructed of concrete rendered red brick. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map. Not visited.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50872
NGR: SN2471049480
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 10. Function unknown. A single storey building with a pitched roof of asbestos cement corrugated sheets with timber roof trusses and timber frame windows. Walls faced with asbestos cement corrugated sheets. Brick and timber internal partitions. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50873
NGR: SN2469049460
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 11. Function unknown. Demolished. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50874
NGR: SN2469049440
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 12. Function unknown. Demolished. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50875

NGR: SN2466049420

Site Type: Building

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 13. Function unknown. Demolished. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50876

NGR: SN2465049420

Site Type: Building

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 14. Function unknown. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. Only part of the footprint of this building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map. The building may therefore have been replaced or extended. Not visited.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50877

NGR: SN2470049550

Site Type: Building

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Demolished building. Previous building number unknown. Function unknown.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50878

NGR: SN2469049480

Site Type: Ablutions block

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 16. Airmen's Ablution building A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. With water tower and flat roofed boiler room. The footprint of this building is represented differently on the 1948 edition OS map and may have been replaced or extended. Internally, red tiled floor throughout. White glazed tiles to height of doorways. Containing toilets, sinks, showers and possibly clothes washing facilities (wooden draining boards).

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50879
NGR: SN24700249500
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 17. Sports Store/Radio Club. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. Original function uncertain but more recently a sports store, and for the Aberporth Amateur Radio Club.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50880
NGR: SN2469049510
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 18. Airmen's Quarters 'Dickson/Edison'. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. PRNs 50880 and 50888 are connected to PRNs 50887 and 50881 by a flat roofed corridor, possibly of later construction, since it is not represented on the 1948 map. The footprint of this building is incorporated into a larger block on the 1948 edition OS map, including PRNs 50879 and 50878.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50881
NGR: SN2466049460
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 19. Airmen's Quarters 'Tedder/Whittle'. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. On the 1948 edition OS map this building is represented as a detached block incorporating B25. Buildings PRNs 50880 and 50888 are connected to PRNs 50887 and 50881 by a flat roofed corridor, possibly of later construction, since it is not represented on the 1948 map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50882
NGR: SN2456749384
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 60. Function unknown. Demolished.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50883
NGR: SN2470549538
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 21. Function unknown. Demolished. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50884
NGR: SN2472149555
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Function unknown. Probable demolished building built on site of B59. not represented on the 1948 edition OS map. Building number unknown.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50885
NGR: SN2467349410
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 23. NAFFI Staff Quarters. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. The north end of the building is a red brick built extension. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50886
NGR: SN2462149436
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 24. Quarters? 'Stevenson'. Not visited. Function uncertain, but other named buildings appear to have been barracks. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50887
NGR: SN2465249465
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 25. Airmen's Quarters 'Slessor/Newton'. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. PRNs 50880 and 50888 are connected to PRNs 50887 and 50881 by a flat roofed corridor, possibly a later addition. On the 1948 edition OS map this building is represented as a block incorporating PRN 50881.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50888

NGR: SN2467649508

Site Type: Barracks

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 26. Airmen's' Quarters 'Trenchard/Marconi'. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. On the 1948 edition OS map this building is represented as a block incorporating PRNs 50880 and 50879 and connected to PRN 50893. PRNs 50888 and 50880 are connected to PRNs 50887 and 50881 by a flat roofed corridor, possibly a later addition.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50889

NGR: SN2468449548

Site Type: Water tank

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 27. Water Tower? Demolished. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50890

NGR: SN24600049415

Site Type: Building

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 28. Quarters? 'Telford'. Not visited. Function uncertain, but other named buildings have been identified as barracks. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50891

NGR: SN2461649450

Site Type: Building

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 29. Function unknown. Demolished. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50892
NGR: SN2463149475
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 30. NAFFI/ Youth Training Centre. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. On the 1948 edition OS map this building is represented differently and may have been altered and extended. It is also shown as being connected to PRN 50893.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50893
NGR: SN2465049518
Site Type: Mess
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 31. Airmen's Mess. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. On the 1948 edition OS map this building is represented as a block connected to PRNs 50892 and 50888, 50880 and 50879. Its function has also changed to a workshop.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50894
NGR: SN2463549523
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 32. Ration Stores/ POL Store/YMCA store/Youth Training store/YT coordinator A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. Not apparently represented on the 1948 OS map. This building has had many functions.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50895
NGR: SN2461749490
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 33. NAFFI Stores/ Engineering Training Workshops. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This

building does not appear to be represented on the 1948 map, unless it has been incorporated into PRN 50892.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50896
NGR: SN2458349479
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 34. Function unknown. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50897
NGR: SN2459049500
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 35. Medical Center. Demolished. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50898
NGR: SN2460049538
Site Type: Guardhouse
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 36. Guard room. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50899
NGR: SN2462049539
Site Type: Electricity sub station
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 37. Sub-station. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50900
NGR: SN2463149561
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 38. Station Headquarters/Library. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered

sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50901
NGR: SN2466549596
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 39. Officer's Quarters. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. The footprint of the building is represented as a block incorporating Parts of PRNs 50902, 50903 and 50907, on the 1948 map. It may have been rebuilt or altered.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50902
NGR: SN2465249602
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 40. Officer's Quarters. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. The footprint of the building is represented as a block incorporating Parts PRNs 50902, 50903 and 50907, on the 1948 map. It may have been rebuilt or altered.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50903
NGR: SN2466849615
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 41. Officer's Quarters. A single storey building of brick construction with corrugated iron clad sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50904
NGR: SN2459549507
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 42. Function unknown. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50905
NGR: SN2458449520
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Function unknown. Previous building number unknown. Demolished building.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50906
NGR: SN2467749552
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 44. Function unknown. Demolished.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50907
NGR: SN2462949629
Site Type: Mess
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 45. Officer's Mess 'Williams'/RAE Hostel. This building has undergone considerable alteration. The earliest part of the building consists of two adjoining buildings to the west of PRN 50902. These are of brick and concrete construction with rendered sides. A pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses, and steel frame windows. These buildings are contemporary with the others of this type. To the north has been added an extensive red brick wing (PRN51111), presumably in the 1970s.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50908
NGR: SN2452049573
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Function unknown. Previous building number unknown. Demolished building represented on the 1948 OS map. Assumed to have been of similar construction to the others in the vicinity, but since it appears to have been smaller, it may have had a different function.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50909
NGR: SN2457349554
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 47. Function unknown. A building represented in this location on the 1948 edition OS map has a different footprint and may have been replaced. The same site is now occupied by the demolished remains of a smaller building of unknown function, adjacent to an air raid shelter.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50910

NGR: SN2456049519

Site Type: Barracks

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 48. Airmen's Quarters 'Scott'. Demolished. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. Presumed to have been similar to PRN 50912.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50911

NGR: SN2453949527

Site Type: Ablutions block

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 49. Airmen's Ablution block? A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. Internally the building is divided with brick and stud partitions and may have been adapted from its original function. It now appears to contain a kitchen area, and a possible washing area.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50912

NGR: SN2455649562

Site Type: Barracks

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously identified as Building 50. Airmen's Quarters 'Salmond/Cook' A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map. Internally the building is an open area with a brick partition wall at the southern end leading to two small storerooms. There is a second partition wall at the north end, leading to an exit. The internal space has more recently been divided up into four rooms along one side of the building.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50913
NGR: SN2453849565
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 51. Airmen's Quarters 'Newall/Bonnington'. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map. Internally the building is identical to PRN 50912, but has not been divided up. An open area with a brick partition wall at the southern end leading to two small store rooms. There is a second partition wall at the north end, leading to an exit. The building appears to have contained dormitory accommodation.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50914
NGR: SN2453049530
Site Type: Ablutions block
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 52. Airmen's Ablution 'Drake' A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. There is a water tower at the centre of the building. A building represented in this location on the 1948 edition OS map has a different footprint and may have been replaced. The existing building is connected to PRN 50914 and 50910 by corridors which are not represented on the 1948 map. Adjacent PRN50914 is a fuel tank. Internally the building contains numerous wash basins, shower and toilet cubicles.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50915
NGR: SN2451549547
Site Type: Barracks
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 53. Airmen's Quarters 'Boyle/Hillary'. A single storey building of brick construction with concrete rendered sides, a pitched roof with asbestos cement corrugated sheets, steel roof trusses and steel frame windows. This building is represented on the 1948 edition OS map. The flat roofed corridor linking PRN 50915 to 50914 appears to be a later modification. The interior of the building appears to have been similar to PRN 50912 but has been converted from its original function.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50916
NGR: SN2469249556
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previous building number unknown. Function unknown. Demolished. Buildings represented in this vicinity on the 1948 edition OS map have a different footprint and may have been replaced.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50917
NGR: SN2469649560
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 55. Function unknown. Demolished. Buildings represented in this vicinity on the 1948 edition OS map have a different footprint and may have been replaced.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50918
NGR: SN2482349536
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Previously identified as Building 56. Air Training Corps. Building. Not visited. Wood panel building with pitched roof of asbestos cement corrugated sheets. This building is not represented on the 1948 edition OS map.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50919
NGR: SN 2459049180
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS
Description: Type 27 pillbox. Not visited in the field as behind hedgeline, mainly outside of the Airfield.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50920
NGR: SN2521049220
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50921
NGR: SN2528049320
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 27 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50922
NGR: SN2537049370
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50923
NGR: SN2538049630
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox. More ruinous than others.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50924
NGR: SN2519049760
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 27 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50925
NGR: SN2527049870
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50926
NGR: SN2497049910
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50927
NGR: SN2483049770
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50928
NGR: SN2455049150
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Concrete base to demolished building. Function unknown.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50929
NGR: SN2465049150
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Concrete base to demolished building. Function unknown.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50930
NGR: SN2536049650
Site Type: Unknown
Period: 1940s?
Source: Field visit
Description: A low mound, about 3m in diameter, with mortared bricks showing through turf. Its location on the airfield perimeter suggests that it is derived from a structure associated with the airfield.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50931
NGR: SN2499049160
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50932
NGR: SN2560049590
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50933
NGR: SN2462049780
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50934
NGR: SN2444049730
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50935
NGR: SN2451049350
Site Type: Pillbox
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Type 24 pillbox

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50936
NGR: SN2450049400
Site Type: Building
Period: 1940s
Source: OS
Description: OS map shows a small rectangular structure. It is outside the study area and was not visited during the present survey.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50937
NGR: SN2460849590
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50938
NGR: SN2462249547
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50939
NGR: SN2481349520
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50940
NGR: SN2467449462
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50941
NGR: SN2467349424
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50942
NGR: SN2459449516
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50943
NGR: SN2456549556
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s
Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield
PRN: 50944
NGR: SN2456549556
Site Type: Air raid shelter
Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit
Description: Reinforced formed concrete shelter with arched interior, covered externally with turf. Entrance constructed from brick and concrete.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 50945

NGR: SN2460549574

Site Type: Squash court

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously squash courts associated with airfield or later use of the site. Now demolished.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 51109

NGR: SN2458749441

Site Type: Buildings

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Collection of mostly red brick farm buildings, pre-dating the construction of Aberporth Airfield, but possibly not by much. Despite being largely surrounded by airfield buildings, the farmstead does not appear to have been incorporated into the airfield complex.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 51110

NGR: SN2470149579

Site Type: Tennis court

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Previously tennis courts associated with airfield, or later use of the site. Now open area of tarmac.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 51111

NGR: SN2462849630

Site Type: Mess

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: Modern, circa 1970? extension to Mess building 50907. Appears to have been later used as a YMCA building.

Site Name: Aberporth Airfield

PRN: 51112

NGR: SN2467749654

Site Type: Buildings

Period: 1940s

Source: OS/ Field visit

Description: A group of domestic houses built on northern edge of the airfield. Possibly built circa 1970s.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Author would like to thank Alan Fogg and Andrew Williams of Defence Estates, Brecon for their assistance in locating plans of the airfield.

8.0 REFERENCES

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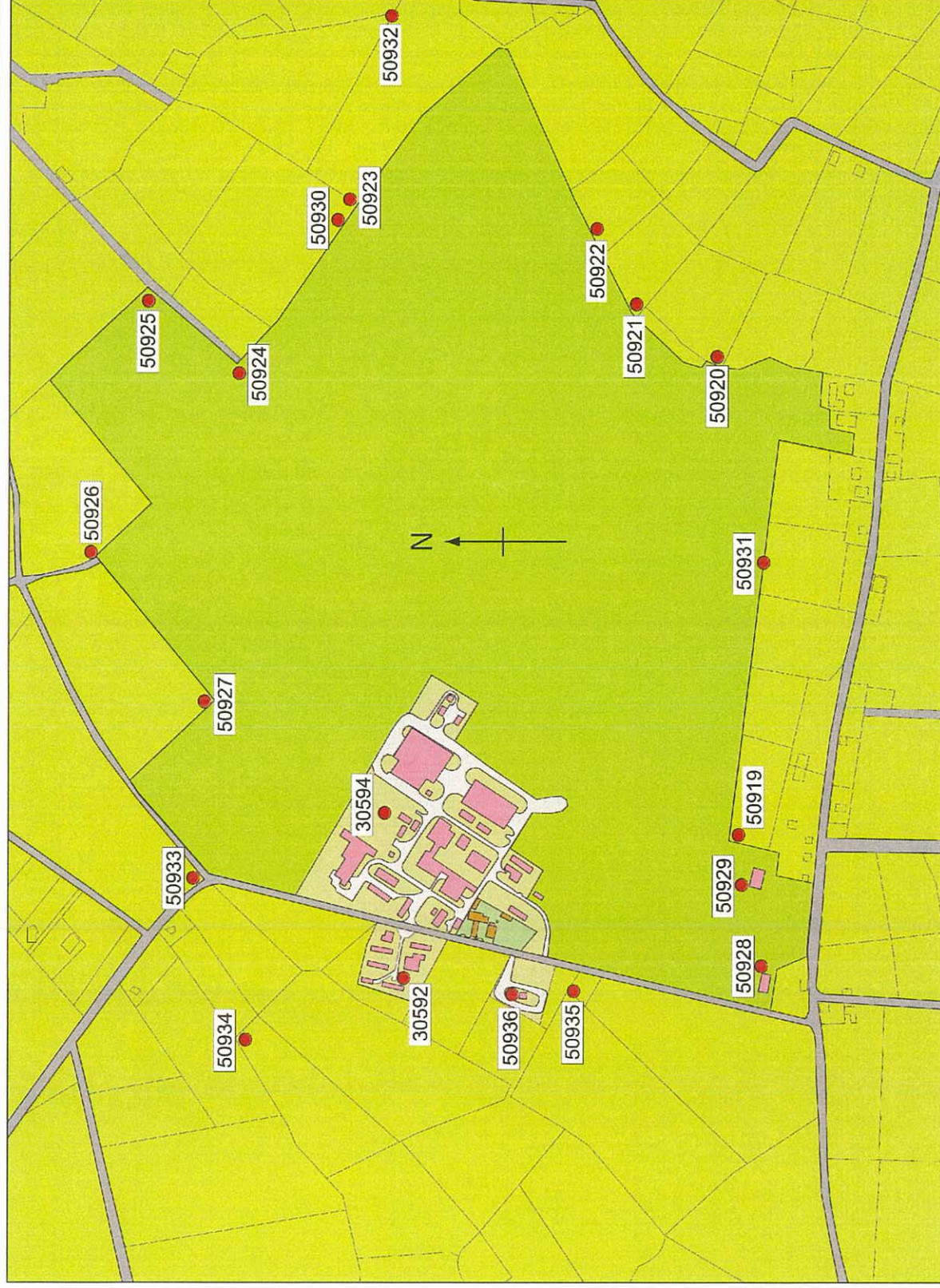


Figure 1: Plan of Aberporth Airfield in 1948 showing locations and PRNs of associated outlying structures



Figure 2: Plan of Aberporth Airfield circa 1977 before demolition of buildings

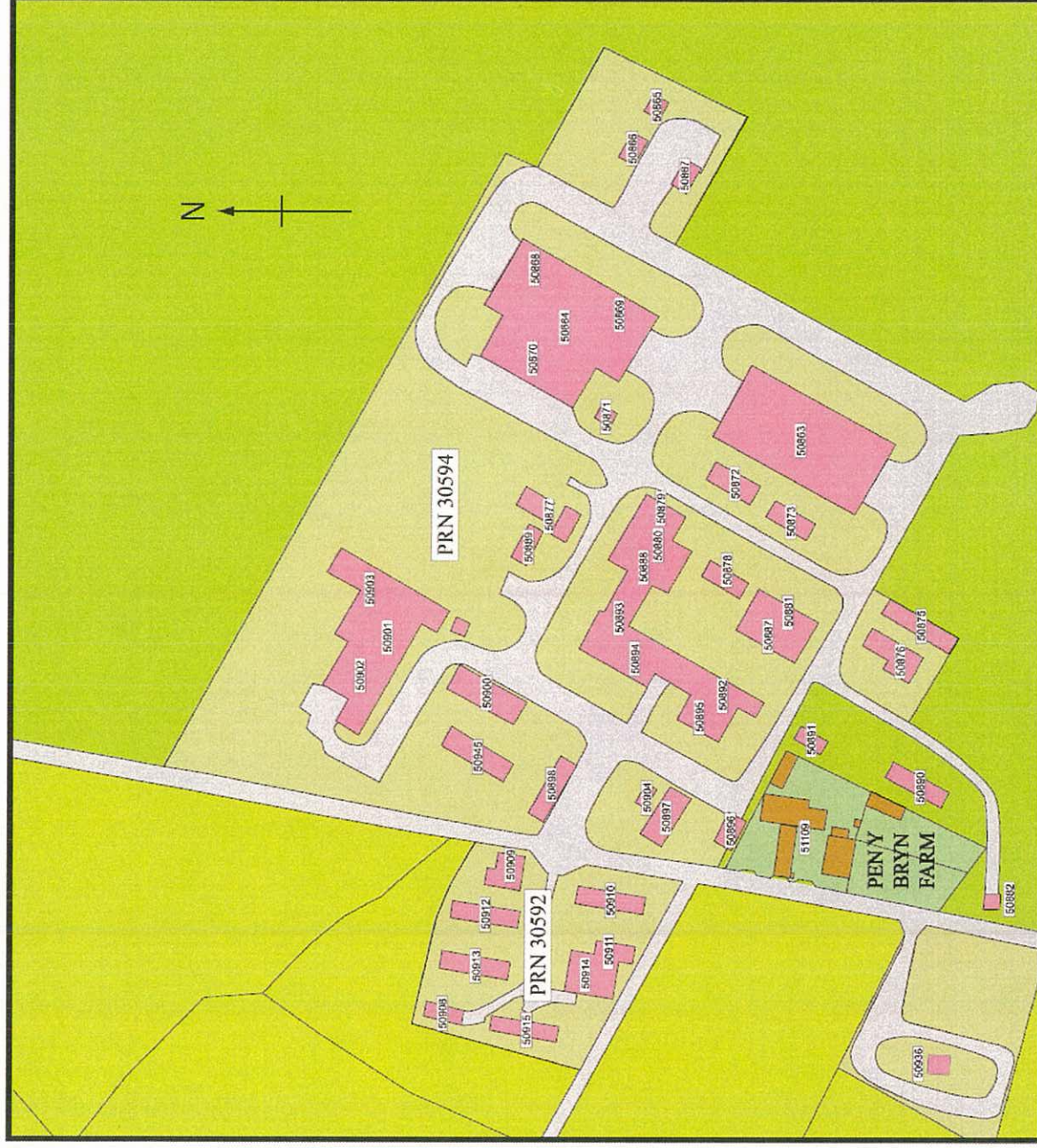


Figure 3: Plan of Aberporth Airfield buildings as represented on OS map of 1948

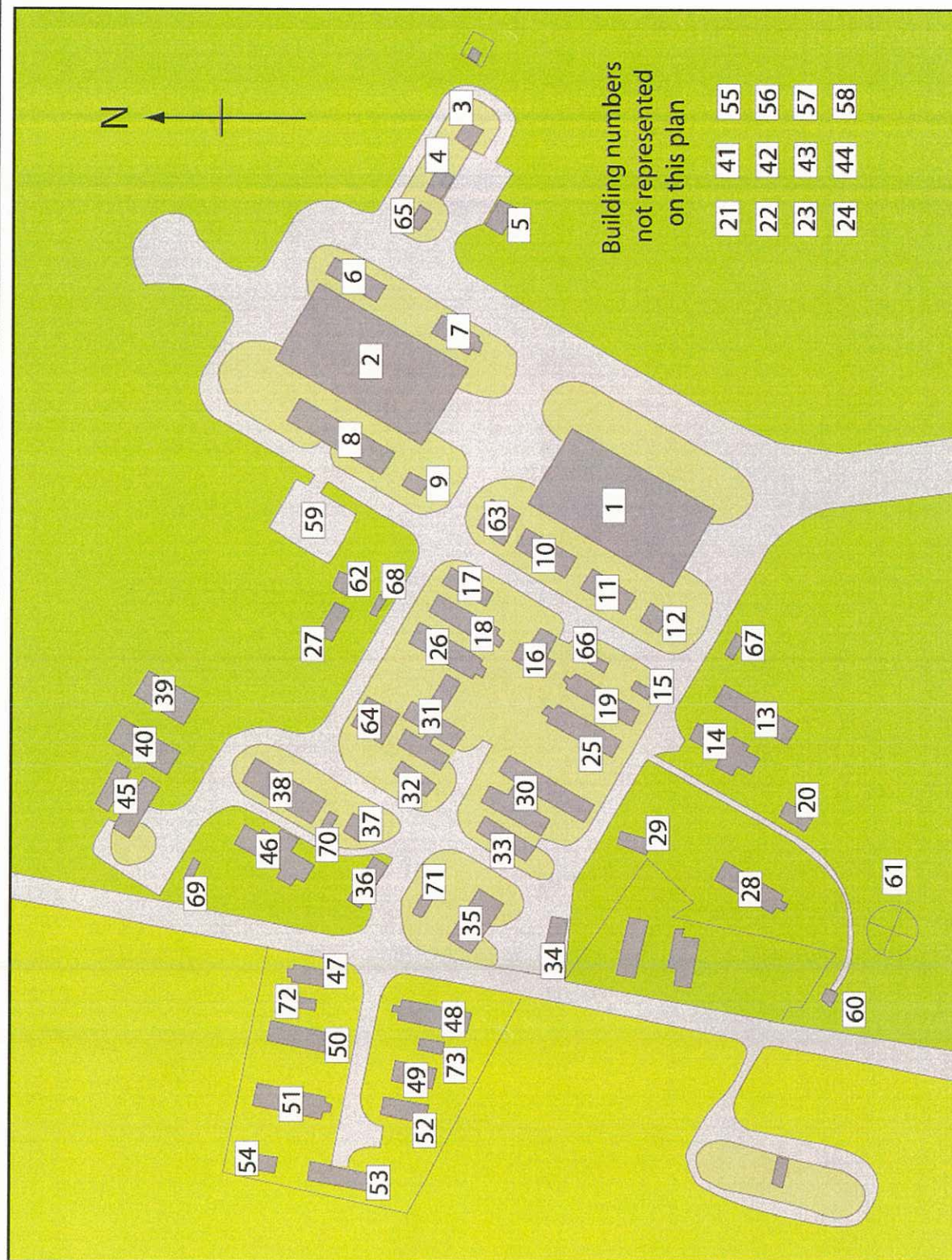


Figure 4: Airfield buildings as represented on Air ministry maps of 1958 with amendments in 1960-72

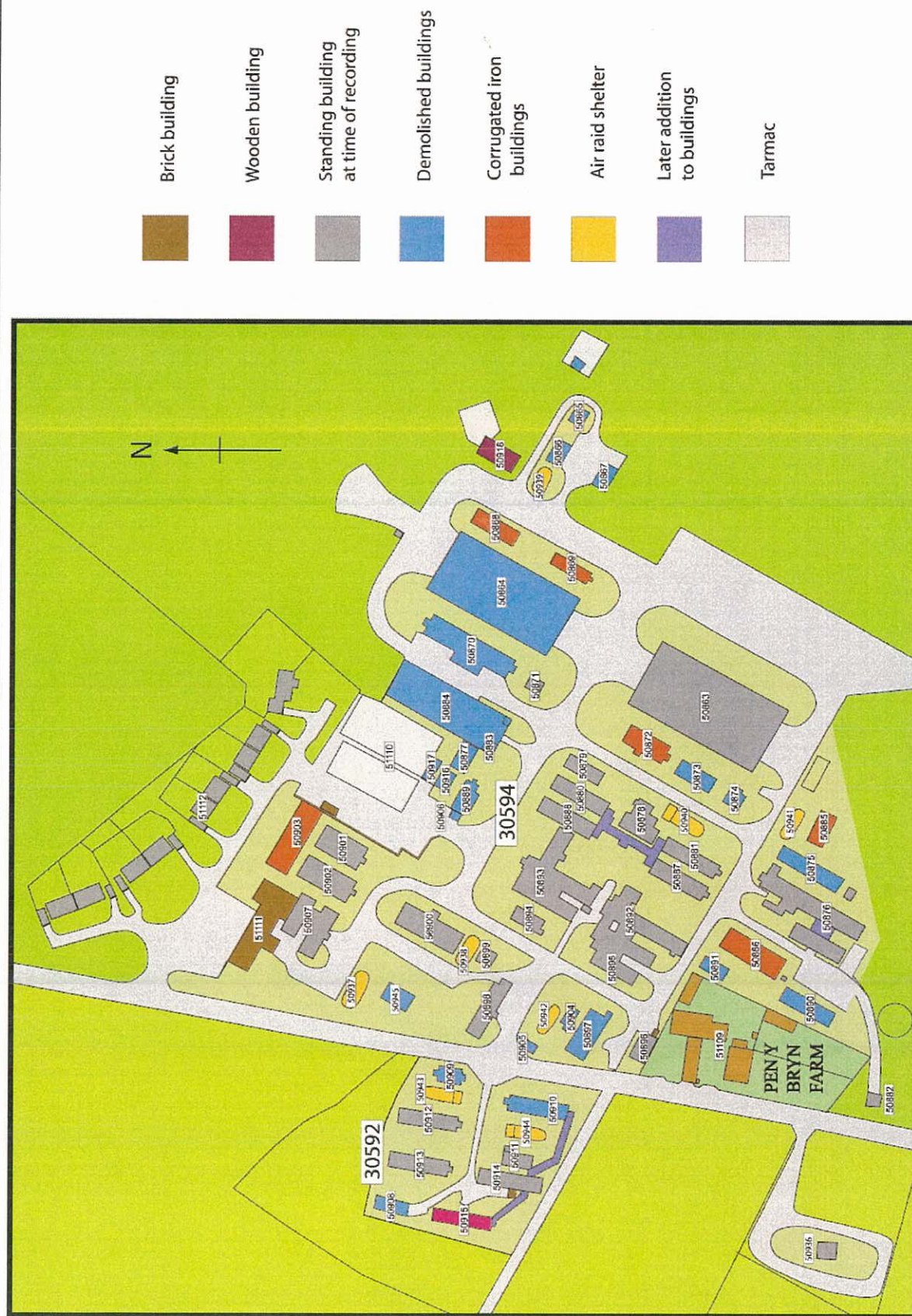


Figure 5: Plan of Aberporth Airfield showing buildings before demolition

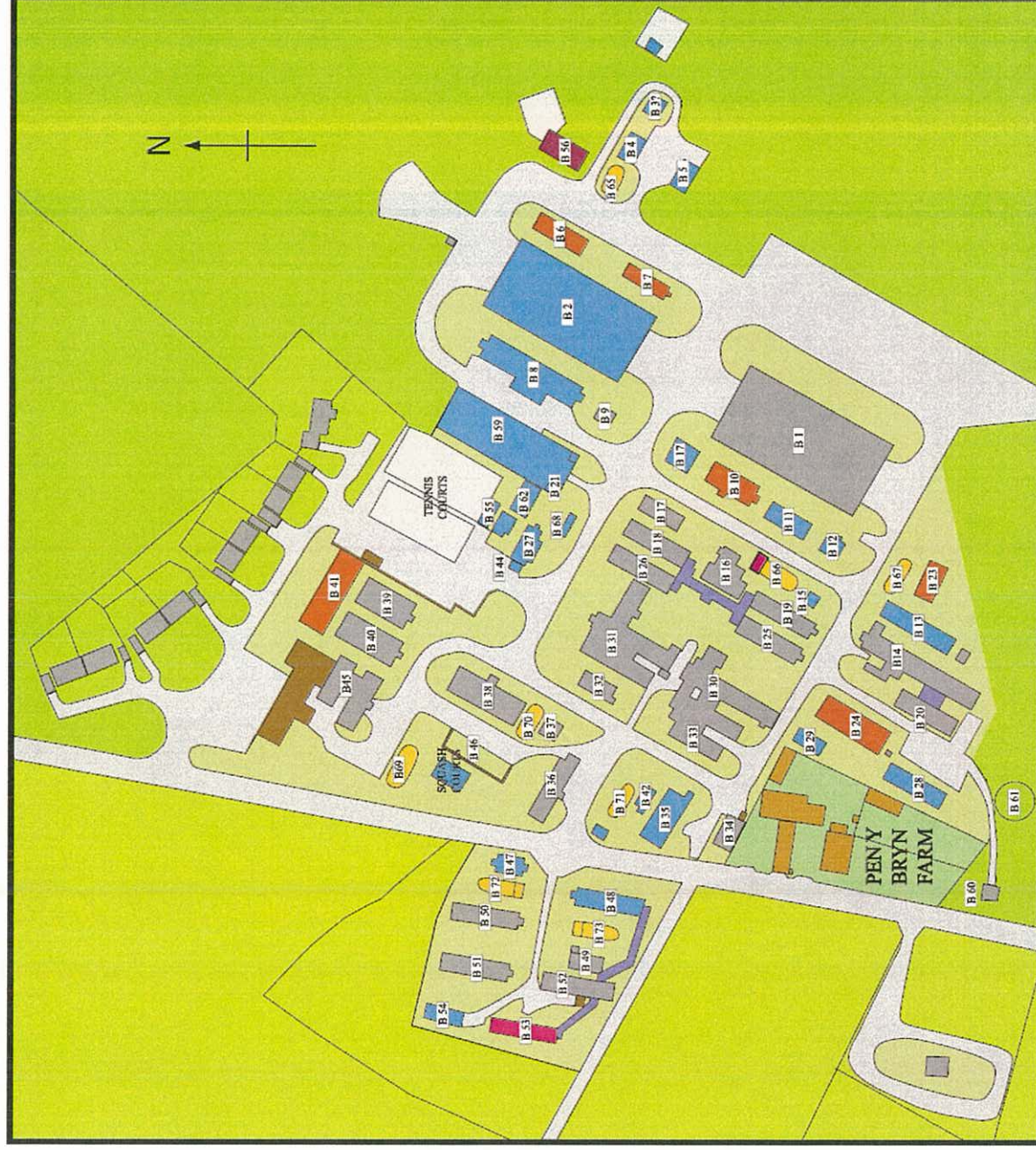


Figure 6: Building numbers represented on combined Air Ministry plans



Photo 1: PRN 50878 from north-east



Photo 2: PRN 50879 from north-east



Photo 3: PRN 50880 from south-east



Photo 4: PRN 50881 from south



Photo 5: PRN 50885 from north-west



Photo 7: PRN 50888 from north



Photo 6: PRN 50887 from west



Photo 8: PRN 50892 from west



Photo 9: PRN 50893 from north



Photo 10: PRN 50894 from south

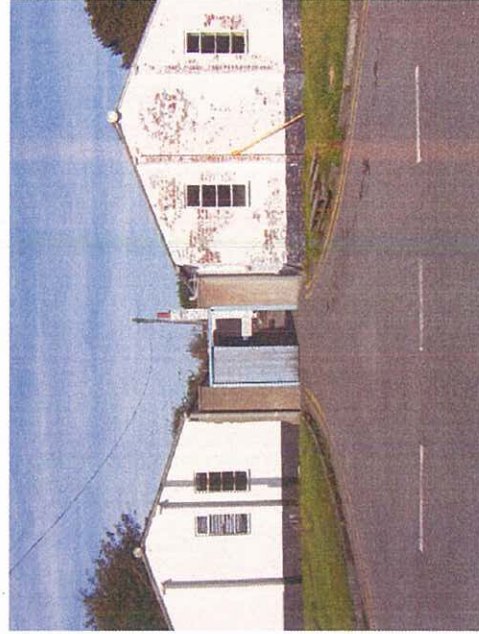


Photo 11: PRNs 50895 and 50892 from south-west



Photo 12: PRN 50896 from east



Photo 13: PRN 50899 from north-west



Photo 14: PRN 50900 from north



Photo 15: PRN 50901 from south-east



Photo 16: PRN 50902 from south-west

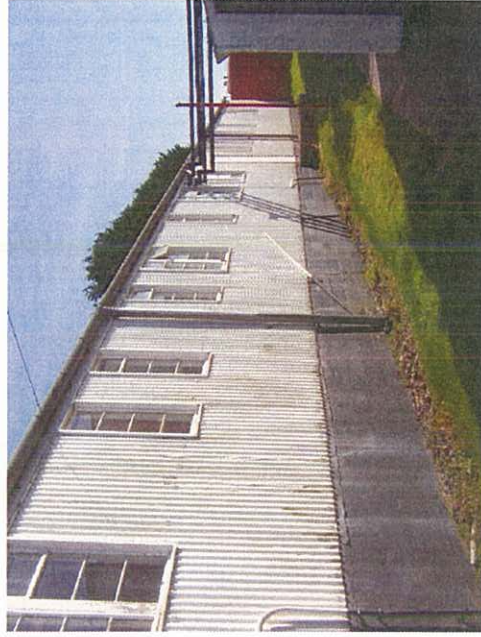


Photo 17: PRN 50903 from south-west



Photo 18: PRN 50907 from north



Photo 19: PRN 50907 from north-west



Photo 20: PRN 50911 from south-east



Photo 21: PRN 50912 from south-east



Photo 22: PRN 50913 from south-east



Photo 23: PRN 50914 etc. from east



Photo 24: PRN 50915 and corridor from south-east



Photo 25: PRN 50868 from south



Photo 26: PRN 50871 from north-west



Photo 27: PRN 50937 from east

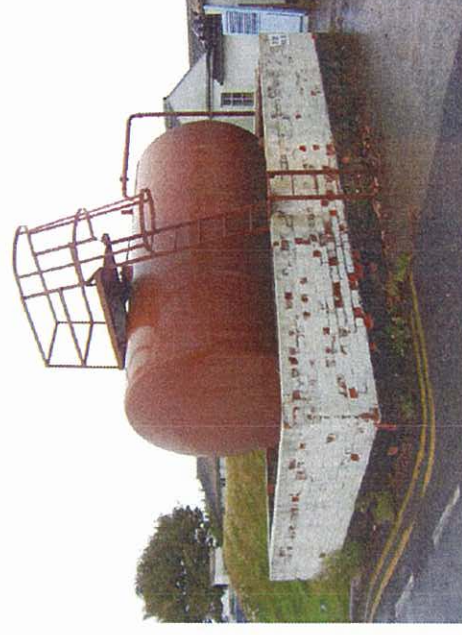


Photo 28: Fuel tank adjacent to PRN 50940

**ABERPORTH AIRFIELD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

REPORT NUMBER

2004/63

This report has been prepared by Duncan Schlee

Position : Archaeologist

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Nigel Page on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Project Manager

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

