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

Prepared for: Capel Tydist



**Tir Gofal Reference No:
W/12/4967**

**Report Number: 2005-93
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Call Out Visit

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to address specific management issues on this farm. The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

The Call Out Report responds to management concerns regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (He1).

Aims and Objectives

The callout was undertaken to advise on management issues related to remains of a chapel site at Capel Tydist farmstead. A roofless and partly ruined stone-built building at the rear on the south side of the farmstead was believed to represent the remains of the chapel site. A callout was undertaken on 2/11/05 primarily to advise on scrub control issues.

Introduction

Historic Landscape Character

This farm consists of two holdings but the chapel site lies in the main holding W/12/4967 around the farmstead of Capel Tydist to the north east of Llandeilo, near the confluences of Afon Araeth and Afon Tywi. This area lies within the Tywi Valley Area of Outstanding Historic Interest, the bulk of this holding also lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area 225 Bethlehem, with the southern part lying within HLCA 203 Allt Tregyb.

The enclosure pattern within this holding consists of medium sized irregular fields, with areas of riverside woodland. This pattern is characteristic of the piecemeal enclosure of farmland, possibly developing from the Medieval period onwards. The current pattern was in place by the time of the tithe map of 1839 with some minor boundary adjustments during the later 19th and 20th century. An area of agricultural earthworks were noted in the field to the southeast of the farmstead during the callout visit, possibly representing ridge and furrow remains.

The settlement pattern consists of dispersed farmsteads and cottages. A chapel is recorded here from the Medieval period onwards. It was established as a Chapel-of-ease for Llangadog parish and would have provided a focal point of activity for local farms and settlements. A dwelling had been established at Capel Tydist from at least the mid 18th century, apparently incorporating the remains of the chapel into its farm buildings. 19th century maps also indicate numerous other cottages and dwellings within and on the edges of this holding. Many of these cottages and dwellings were subsequently abandoned during a period of agricultural decline in the 20th century, although Capel Tydist survives as a working farmstead.

DESCRIPTION

The chapel was mentioned as 'Llan Dydstyl' in the late 16th century and was believed to be a chapel-of-ease for Llangadog parish during the Medieval period. The chapel is dedicated to a pre-Norman saint but there is at present no indication that the chapel itself dates to the pre-Norman period. The chapel is not mentioned by Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Wales in 1833 by which time a farmstead had been established at the site. However, a description of the area of Llandeilo written in 1858 describes traces of the old chapel remaining, evident in the 'east and north sides of the barn' (Davies 1858). Davies describes graves being visible in the interior of the building and human bones having been dug up in the general area, a yew tree adjacent to the barn was also believed to have stood in the former graveyard. When the RCAHMW visited the site in 1913 they could find no architectural traces of the chapel remaining but Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century to the current day still mark this farmstead as the site of the chapel.

There appears to some confusion regarding which of the farm buildings may have represented the site of the former chapel. There are two main traditional barn ranges on Capel Tydist farmstead, and map sources suggest these ranges have both been in existence since at least the mid 19th century. Therefore both likely to have been standing in 1858 at the time of the description of the remains of the chapel. It is likely however that both buildings may have been rebuilt or altered since that date.

The northernmost barn range is aligned roughly east-west and would appear to correspond most closely to the dimensions given by the RCAHM in 1913 in their description of the barn. This barn however would appear to be a mid to late 19th century barn with no evidence of the former remains of a chapel in its construction.

Ordnance Survey maps, from the 1st edition of 1887 to current editions, mark the southern range, also aligned roughly east-west, as the site of the Chapel, specifically the western end of the range. Significant sections of the eastern and western ends of this traditional barn range survive, but only the southern wall of the main central section survives. Several phases of development are visible in the westernmost barn in this range, currently used as a hay store. Although the walls record changing uses for this barn over the years there are no obvious architectural traces of a medieval chapel. The natural bedrock begins to rise in this area, the whole range is built on slightly different levels. Where this has cut into the bedrock the foundations, graves and other below ground chapel elements may have been removed. Equally remains may have been preserved where the ground has been built up to level off the floors. A large build up of earth and stone to the rear of the western end of this barn range may mask below ground remains.



The westernmost barn of the southern barn range at Capel Tydist farmstead. This is the area marked on Ordnance Survey maps as the site of the original chapel.

Much of the central section of this barn range has been removed with the construction of the modern barn, although the southern wall has been built inside the line of the traditional barn, preserving much of the line of the traditional barn wall. Again there are no obvious architectural traces of a Medieval chapel in this wall line, although different phases and features are visible which would require more detailed building recording to understand. The internal face of the wall is also now obscured from inspection by the construction of the modern barn wall. The levelling off of the barn floor in this area may also have both removed some areas of archaeological remains, whilst possibly preserving other areas beneath more recent build up.

To the rear of the central barn in this range is a small ruined building which has also been thought to represent the remains of the chapel. This building is built of mortared random rubble, roofless, aligned north-south, and attached to the southern wall of the main barn range. There is a raised entrance in the western wall, an entrance from the main barn range, and a ventilation slit in the southern gable wall. This building is first marked on the tithe map of 1839. This building can be discounted as the site of the chapel, on closer inspection is attached to, and therefore later than, the main barn range. The chapel would have been aligned east-west and the ventilation slit in the gable wall suggests this building functioned as a small cow shed. Although discounted as the remains of the chapel this building is still an important element of the surviving traditional farm buildings on this farmstead.



East facing shot of the small barn building attached to the southern side of the main barn range.

There are no indications of surviving medieval masonry elsewhere in this southern barn range.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Condition

The available documents indicate the former presence of a medieval chapel in this area, close to the location indicated on Ordnance Survey maps, near the western end of the southern barn range within the farmstead. The alignment of this barn range and the description from 1858 would appear to indicate the chapel had an influence on the layout of this range. However, there currently appears to be no obvious above ground remains of the chapel itself although a more detailed inspection of the stone work of the barn may reveal remnants of chapel walling. There is also the strong possibility of below ground remains of both the chapel, its graveyard and possible associated features. As for the main barn building itself it remains in use and in relatively stable condition although much of the central section has been replaced with modern materials.

The small barn building to the rear of the main range is roof less, with partly ruinous walls, although generally they stand close to their original height. Tumbled stone and scrub lies within the structure and around the walls, in particular where it adjoins the main barn range. Some of this scrub has recently been cut back. The building backs onto a field of pasture, although is divided from it by a small stream that runs behind the main barn range.

Recommendations

Ideally the walls of the southern barn range should be maintained in their current condition. If any work is planned that would affect the structure of these walls then it is suggested that more detailed building recording work is undertaken as this may reveal elements of the chapel structure not currently obvious.

Ground breaking work should be avoided in the area both within and surrounding this barn range due to the significant possibility of disturbing archaeological remains of the former chapel and its graveyard.

Scrub clearance to the rear of the barn range and around the small attached barn building should continue. Scrub should be cut back and treated, not uprooted, so as not to disturb upstanding masonry or below ground remains. Dead wood and vegetation should be removed from the area. Facing stones have fallen from the southwest corner of this building, this corner should be consolidated. Once vegetation has been removed from the top of these walls they should be capped to prevent further deterioration. Existing traditional barn walls should be maintained wherever possible.

REFERENCES

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1831 Old Series 1" map, No.XLI

Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXXIV.9

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Tithe Map 1839 Llangadog Parish

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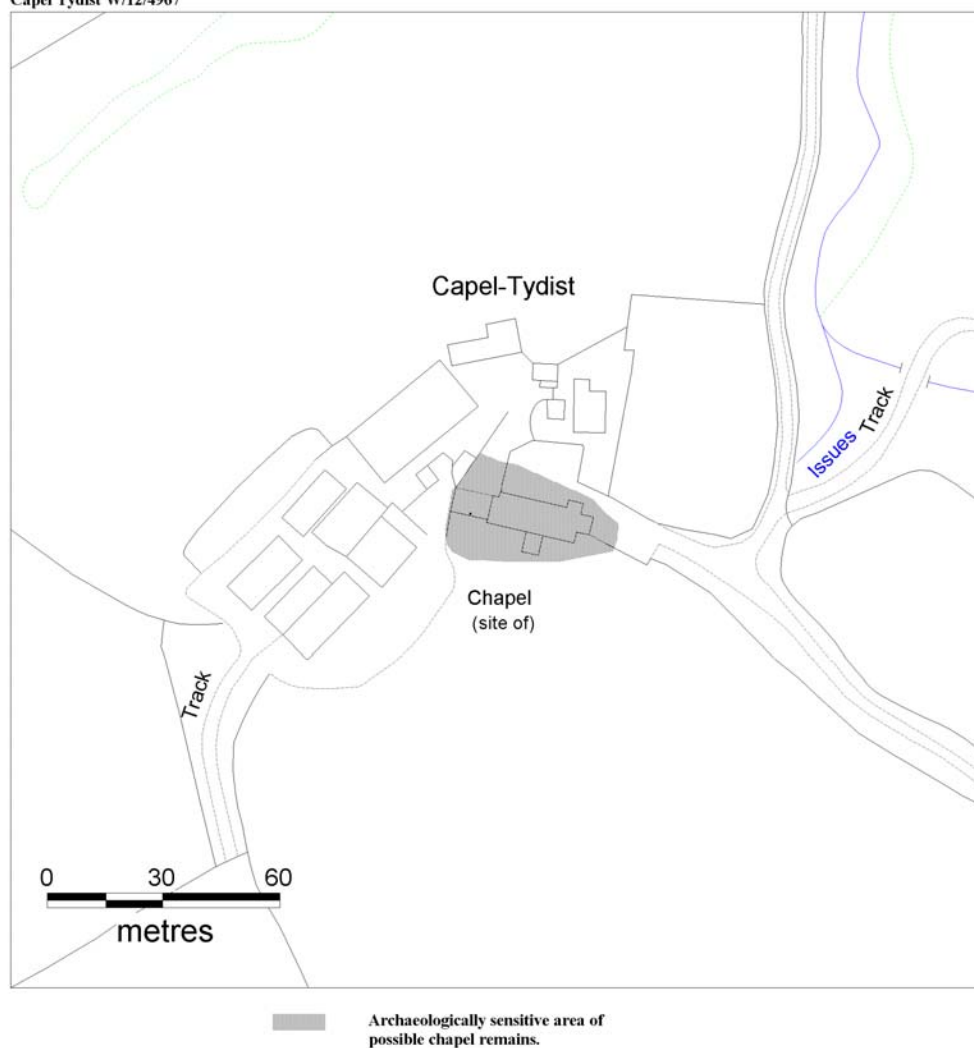
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Capel Tydist W/12/4967



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