

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

Ffon 01558 823131  
Ffacs 01558 823133  
Ebostr: 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:  
**Trerhys**



Tir Gofal Reference No  
**W/13/5798**

Prepared by  
**Will Steele**

Report No. **2005/122**  
Project No. **54182**

## **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).

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## Historic Landscape Character

Trerhys is centred on NGR SN11864641 in the community of Nevern. The farm occupies an exposed west facing slope above Ceibwr Bay on the Pembrokeshire Coast. The surrounding landscape is recognized as being of considerable landscape value and falls within the Lower Teifi valley Landscape of Special Historic Interest. This is a non-statutory, advisory designation which aims to provide information and raise awareness of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project and falls within Area 414: Tre-rhys.

The farm is on an exposed west-facing coastal slope. Consequently there are no trees present and hedges are generally straggly and windswept. Settlement is dispersed and set within a pattern of small to medium sized fields which may have been enclosed in the early post-medieval period if not in the middle ages. The tithe map of 1838 shows subdivided blocks in some of these fields, which probably represent the last vestiges of farming under traditional patterns of Welsh tenure. Granant and Hendre are thought to have origins as medieval villis and there remains the possibility that other farms in the area may have similarly early origins. There is a reference to Trerhys dated 1362 (Charles 1992).



General landscape view looking west from the farmstead

## Archaeological and Historic Content

An Iron Age promontory fort (PRN 1043) on the clifftop above Ceibwr Bay attests to the early occupation of the area but no prehistoric sites are known to lie within the boundary of Trerhys.

Trerhys is mentioned in 1362 (Charles 1992) but there is little detailed information until the nineteenth century when accurate maps are published for the first time. The current farmstead is nineteenth century in origin and retains a distinctive regional character with grouted slate roofs still present in part. They represent a traditional technique when the slate was cemented over and limewashed for protection against the strong coastal winds.

The house is detached from the farm buildings which are arranged roughly around three sides of a rectangular yard and incorporate many features typical of a medium sized mixed arable and livestock farm including granary, threshing barn, stable, chaff house, cow shed and cart shed. A waterwheel and holding pond lie some 60m away from the barn where belts drove a chaff cutter and other machines. The water wheel is rare surviving example of a feature that was once fairly common. The actor Rupert Davies, best known for playing the French detective, *Maigret* showed an interest in acquiring the wheel, said to have been made by one of his antecedents, but the intention was later abandoned. The farm probably also had a horse gin; a circular feature is marked in outline next to the barn on the 1889 Ordnance Survey 25" map but no traces remain today.

## **Objective**

A call out visit to Trerhys was carried out by Cambria Archaeology on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2005 with the aim of:

- addressing specific issues regarding the future management of the water wheel
- carrying out a rapid survey of the farmstead to provide a basic record of the buildings

## The Water Wheel

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR
Trerhys 55112	Post Medieval Water Wheel	SN11814644

Situated behind Trerhys and some 60m northwest of the barn is a stone lined wheel pit and cast iron waterwheel used for driving farm machinery. It is overshot and would have been fed from a holding pond via a launder that no longer exists. The wheel (c. 4m diameter) is entirely of cast iron construction and has an iron cog wheel bolted to one side driving an iron pinion on a shaft. The shaft ran along a shallow ditch then under the farmyard and into the barn where belts drove a chaff cutter and other machines.

On one side of the wheel is the inscription *I. THOMAS CARDIGAN* bearing the name of the foundry. Before his death in 1976 the actor Rupert Davies, best known for playing the French detective, *Maigret* showed an interest in acquiring the wheel which, it is said, was made by one of his antecedents. A later nineteenth century date is likely for the wheel.

The wheel is in good condition considering its age but is now obscured by dense scrub. A restoration plan is proposed as part of the Tir Gofal agreement that will entail cutting back the vegetation, then fencing out the wheel pit as a precaution to protect livestock. The following management recommendations apply:

- To cut scrub by hand taking care not to damage the water wheel, wheel pit or other associated features. Debris should then be removed from the site.
- To control regeneration weeds, scrub and sapling growth by cutting at ground level and spot treating on a regular, preferably annual, basis.
- To erect new fence around the site at least two metres away from the edge of the wheel pit then back to the dam of the holding pond. See map for details.
- Consider provision for visitor access and interpretation at the five year review. Contact TGPO and Cambria for further advice.



The wheel is now hidden in dense vegetation.



The iron pinion and back wall of the wheel pit.

## The Farmstead

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR
Trerhys 55113	Post Medieval Farmstead	SN11854643

A nineteenth century farmstead of regional character with an intact water wheel.

Farm buildings are of rubble stone, with cut stone heads and drip courses to door and window openings, and grouted slate roofs still present in part.

The house is detached from the farm buildings which are arranged roughly around three sides of a rectangular yard and incorporate many features typical of a medium sized mixed arable and livestock farm including granary, threshing barn, stable, chaff house, cow shed and cart shed. A waterwheel and holding pond lie some 60m away from the barn where belts drove a chaff cutter and other machines. The present owner recalls gorse being processed for animal fodder in living memory. A circular feature, presumably a horse gin, shown alongside the barn on the 1889 Ordnance Survey 25" map no longer survives. On stylistic grounds and from map evidence a nineteenth century date would seem likely for the farm buildings at Trerhys.

Modern buildings are situated behind the historic core and the farmstead, despite having experienced a degree of modernisation, retains good historic character. The following is recommended:

- Consider building restoration at the five year review. Contact TGPO and Cambria for further advice.



Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR
<b>Trerhys 55441</b>	<b>Post Medieval Combination Farm Building</b>	<b>SN11864639</b>

A large nineteenth century outbuilding range on the south side of the yard at Trerhys. It is of rubble stone with a grouted slate roof and divides into three parts: a granary loft to the left, then a threshing barn, and a lofted stable to the right. Detail such as the cut stone heads and drip courses to door and window openings mark a stylistic theme with other buildings in the group. A small building against the front wall of the threshing barn is said to be a chaff house.

Changing agricultural practices have seen a number of alterations, including the widening of some openings and removal of most of the internal fittings, and today the range is used as housing for calves.

In overall appearance it is reasonably well intact with many openings unaltered and the grouted roof, a regionally distinctive characteristic, still present in part. The range is weatherproof and reasonably well maintained.



Part of the front elevation of the range showing the threshing barn and chaff house.

<b>Name (&amp; PRN)</b>	<b>Period/Site type</b>	<b>NGR</b>
<b>Trerhys 55442</b>	<b>Post Medieval Cow Shed</b>	<b>SN11834640</b>

A nineteenth century cow shed on the west side of the yard at Trerhys. It is of rubble stone and probably had a grouted slate roof originally like other buildings in the group. The cow shed originally featured at least four evenly spaced door openings in the front wall with cut stone heads and drip courses. Beneath the eaves above are several pairs of pigeon holes with a stone shelf. The rear wall is masked by modern sheds.

The cow shed has been converted to a milking parlour with the original doorways blocked and new doors inserted. It now incorporates a large breeze block component in its construction and the original roof has been replaced.



The cow shed is now much altered.

<b>Name (&amp; PRN)</b>	<b>Period/Site type</b>	<b>NGR</b>
<b>Trerhys 55443</b>	<b>Post Medieval Cart Shed</b>	<b>SN11844639</b>

A nineteenth century cart shed alongside the road in the southwest corner of the yard at Trerhys. It is of rubble stone with a replacement corrugated iron roof but probably had a grouted slate roof originally. A wide entrance with iron lintel that had a cut stone arch until relatively recently faces onto the yard and there is a small window opening in the rear wall. A pair of small dilapidated stone sheds of uncertain function butt up against the rear.

The cart shed itself is reasonably well maintained but now has a large breeze block component in its construction

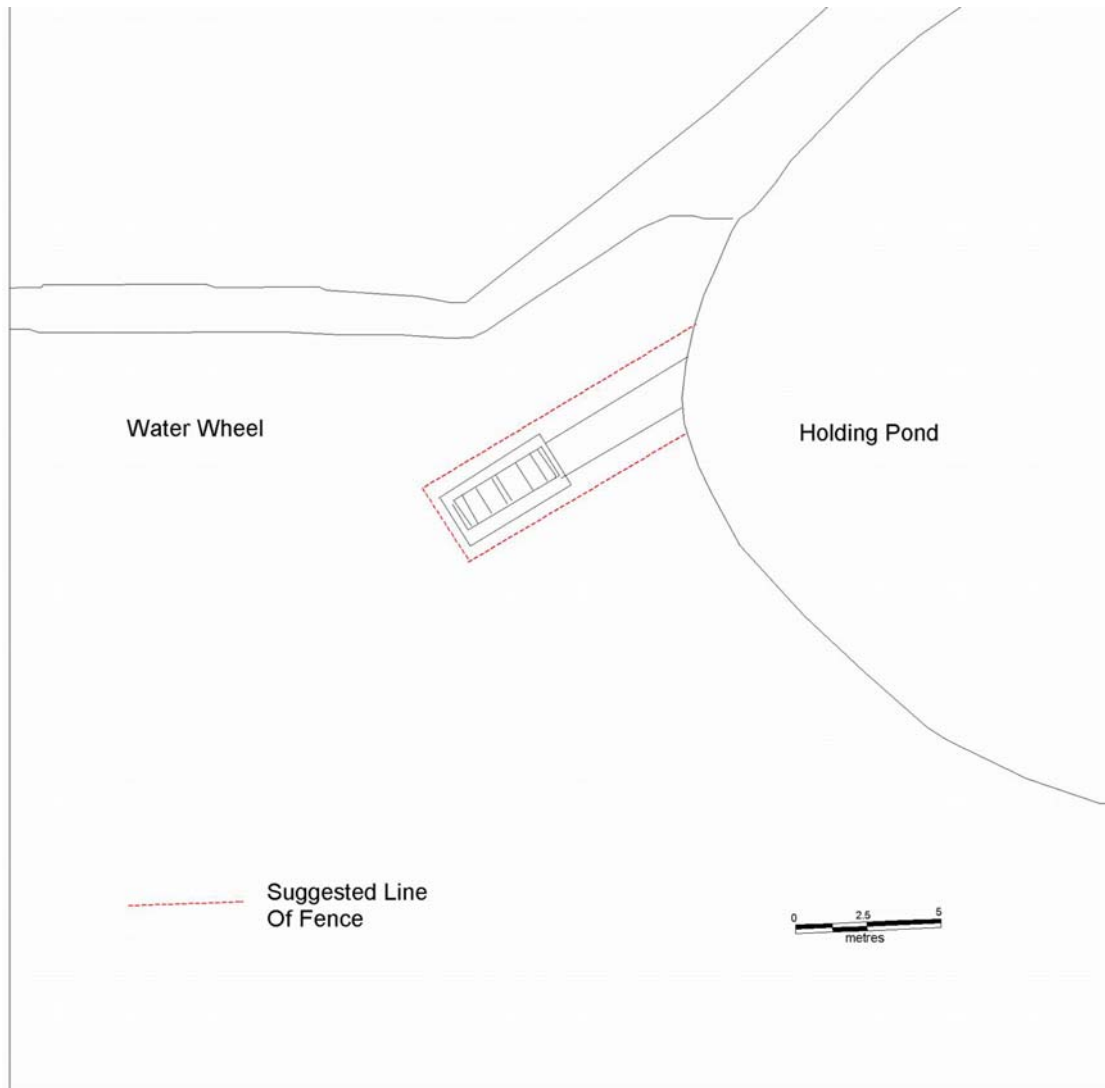
## **Maps**

Ordnance Survey Old Series map 1819 Sheet 58, 1"  
Ordnance Survey 1889 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.06, 25"  
Ordnance Survey 1906 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.06, 25"  
Ordnance Survey 1889 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.10, 25"  
Ordnance Survey 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.10, 25"

## **Other Sources**

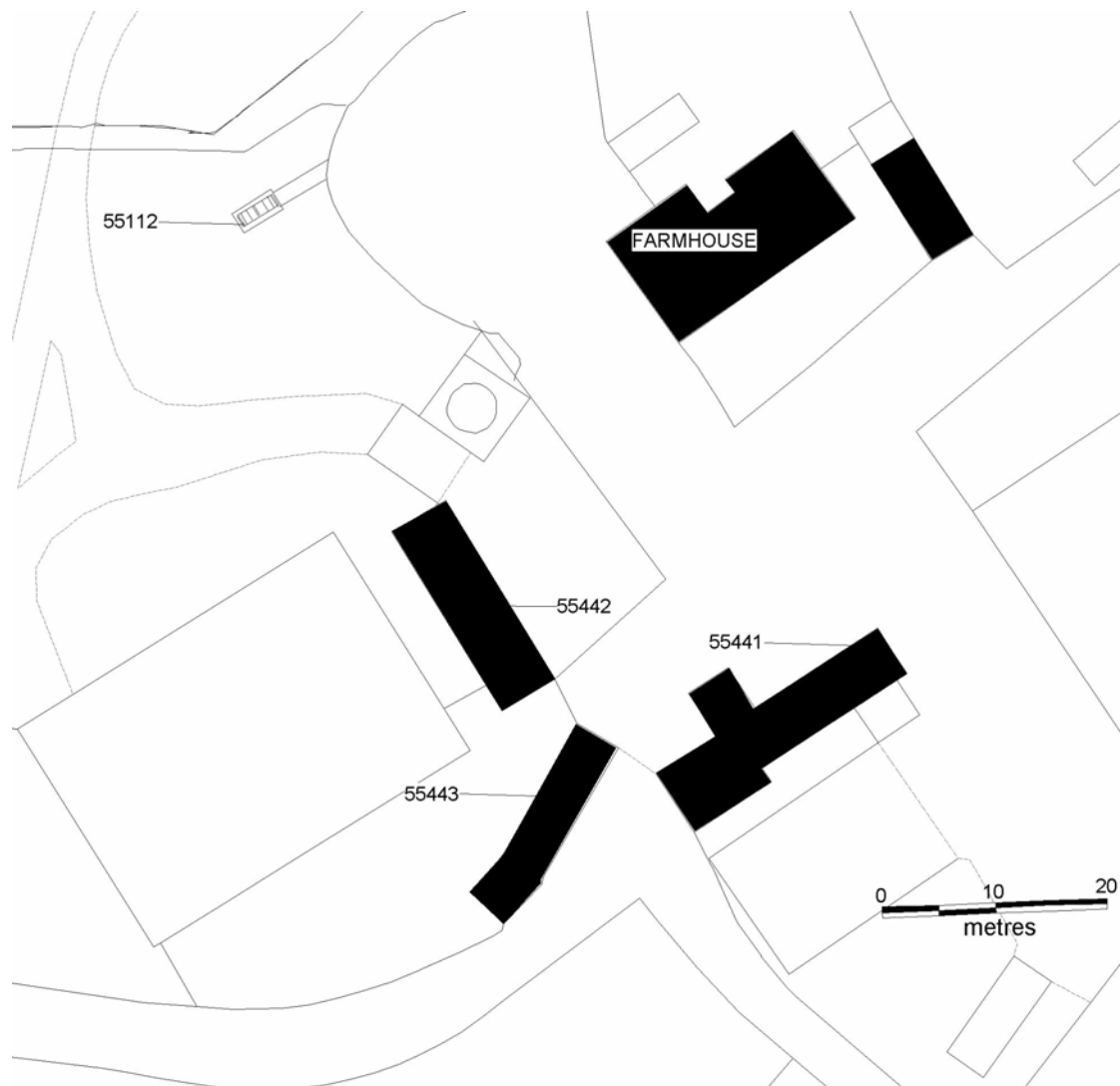
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS 2001 Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments  
Charles, B.G. 1992 The Place-Names of Pembrokeshire. The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth  
Murphy, K & Ludlow, N 2004 Historic Landscape Characterisation: Lower Teifi Valley and Drefach and Felindre. ACA Reports

## Trerhys Water Wheel (PRN 55112) Suggested Line Of Fence



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## Trerhys Farmstead (buildings identified by PRN)



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