

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol
Dyfed
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF



Dyfed Archaeological Trust
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebst: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Cefn Farm, Cynghordy**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/7011**

**DAT Report No. 2009-25
Project Record No. 64984**

**Prepared by
Mike Ings**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Cefn Farm comprises two holdings of land, labelled 'A' and 'B' for the purposes of this report and centred on NGRs SN80323823 and SN81553898 respectively, in the community of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, Carmarthenshire. Both are located between the river valleys of the Afon Crychan, to the east, and the Afon Bran, to the west.

The fields just to the south of holding 'A' are generally medium-sized and irregular, suggesting fairly early, possibly medieval, enclosure whereas the fields within and to the north of the holding are far more regular and indicative of later, post-medieval enclosure. The holding is depicted on the 1886 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as being bordered to the north by an area of heath or rough-grazing and scrub woodland and it is possible that these regular field boundaries represent later encroachment onto what was once common land. The area is now under the conifer plantation of Allt y Parc.

Holding 'B', to the north, is a much larger plot of land. The field pattern within the holding is generally one of medium, irregular enclosure that again indicates a relatively early agricultural system. The fields along the eastern edge of the holding are much larger and are depicted on the 1888 1st edition OS map as being under heath and rough-grazing. They represent later encroachment on to common land, a remnant of which is still recorded to the east of the farm boundary as the heathland of Banc Ddu and the woodland of Banc Cefn Garreg. This area is now under the conifer plantation of Allt y Garth.

Archaeological and Historic Content

The roughly circular earthworks of an Iron Age (circa 600 BC - 100AD) defended enclosure, Cefn Pal South (PRN 4153), are located within holding 'A'. The defences enclose an area of some 70 metres and are bounded to the northwest and southeast by steep natural slopes. Cropmarks suggest that the enclosure may continue into the adjoining, southwest field. The site was proposed for scheduling on 30th September 2008.

A further Iron Age enclosure, Cefn Pal North, lies just beyond the northeastern farm boundary. The known line of a Roman road runs to the west of both farm holdings and the square earthwork enclosure of a Roman practice camp, Upper Lodge, is sited nearby.

All the recorded archaeology within holding 'B' dates to the post-medieval period and includes Cefn Farm (PRN 94115), which incorporates Cefn House (PRN 19870),

where traditional buildings survive, and the abandoned cottage Pen y rhiw (PRN 22502)

Key Objective

A management priority for this farm is the preservation and maintenance of the Iron Age defended enclosure Cefn Pal. Detailed management recommendations are provided below.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-

date record of archaeological discoveries.

"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following sites and monuments that are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
2	CEFN PAL (4153)	Iron Age enclosure	SN80253804		Specific
	A sub-circular enclosure defended by two banks situated on a southwest facing hillslope at 180 metres above sea level. This substantial earthwork is approximately 70 metres in diameter and is defended on the northeast, uphill side by two lines of bank and ditches. The Ordnance Survey last recorded the site in 1977 and noted that the inner bank was 12 metres to 16 metres wide and up to 1.4 metres high internally. The inner ditch was 8 metres to 15 metres wide and 2.8 metres deep. The outer bank was 10 metres to 12 metres wide and stood up to 3 metres high. The outer ditch was six metres to 8 metres wide and approximately 2 metres deep. The inner bank continues to curve round to the west and completes a semi-circle on the northwest. On the east side both banks run out into a fairly steep natural slope.				



Looking east, profile of the defensive ramparts.

Aerial photographs show that the outer bank is not as curved as the inner bank and at both ends it appears to be turning outwards slightly. They also appear to show potential for the earthwork continuing, at least as a cropmark, into the adjoining field. In 2008 the enclosure appeared much as described by the Ordnance Survey, although it is apparent that the earthwork is suffering from the effects of vehicular damage, with large wheel ruts cutting through both defensive banks. On the ground a curving defensive bank does appear to exist in the adjoining southwest field as suggested by the aerial photographs. The enclosure is bounded on the northwest and southeast by steep natural slopes but is open on the southwest along the ridge. There is no trace of an entrance. The site is situated within fields under pasture. (F.Murphy & R.Ramsey, 2008)



Looking southwest across the enclosure ramparts

The site was visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (11/03/2009) and found to be in a similar condition as recorded in 2008. The ditches are waterlogged in part and reeds are growing within them. The site was proposed for scheduling on 30th September 2008.

PEN Y RHIW ([22502](#))

**Post-Medieval
cottage**

SN82223915 B

Generic

Cottage recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, with associated outbuildings, but not shown on modern mapping, presumed abandoned. The site was visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (11/03/2009).



Looking east across the site of Pen y rhiw cottage with wall remnants in the foreground.

There is now little of the cottage left to be seen with the stone removed, presumably for use elsewhere, and most surviving foundations under grass. There are some stretches of exposed stonework, standing to a maximum of four courses high and defining a rectilinear area aligned northeast - southwest and measuring approximately six by five metres. There is also a discreet area of loose stone and fragmentary slate lying on the surface. Elsewhere there are grassed over earthworks that outline further buildings and enclosures.

CEFN FARM ([94116](#))

Post-Medieval well SN80973876 C

Generic

Well recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, associated with Cefn Farm (PRN 94115). The site was visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (11/03/2009) and found to be surrounded by a red-brick wall capped with concrete and a heavy stone slab. It sits on the break of a west-facing slope behind Cefn House (PRN 19870).



The well located behind Cefn House

([94117](#))

**Post-Medieval
quarry**

SN81633910 C

Generic

Recorded as 'Old Quarry' on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and presumed disused by the end of the 19th century. This site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 11/03/2009, although the owner knows it as a grassed-over earthwork.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.

The following individual sites and monuments are subject to specific management prescriptions that are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

Site 2 on MAP 1

CEFN PAL [\(4153\)](#)

SN80253804

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended

Cefn Pal defended enclosure has been recommended for scheduling and, as such, will be subject to specific management recommendations by Cadw.

Tir Gofal management recommendations, made in consultation with Cadw, are to retain a low growing vegetation cover over the monument, with no breaks in the ground surface, and the current farming techniques should be ideally suited. However, the greatest immediate threat appears to be vehicular damage, erosion and poaching. A further possible threat is that of windthrow of the mature trees that grow on the ramparts, which could potentially damage the profile of the ramparts and disturb below ground archaeological remains..

Tir Gofal recommendations.

- Avoid driving vehicles across the monument as this can break the ground surface, leading to erosion or denudation of the vegetation cover, or compact possible below ground archaeological deposits.
- Stock levels should be monitored with no supplementary stock feeding on or near the monument.
- Sheep paths have caused considerable poaching within the defensive ditches and moving stock in concentration across the monument should be avoided. The cutting back of the reeds, that grow extensively to the north of the enclosure and within the defensive ditches, might help to alleviate such pinch-point erosion by enlarging the corridor of livestock movement. Vegetation should not be uprooted as this may damage below ground archaeological remains.
- Elsewhere, erosion has been caused on the rampart slopes by sheep seeking shelter and further sheep paths. These areas should ideally be restored to prevent progressive deterioration and possibly alternative shelter provided away from the monument.
- No groundbreaking activities should be undertaken within the area of the monument or a ten metre buffer zone around the edge.
- The trees growing on the monument should be monitored and any that are in danger of windthrow should be removed and disposed of away from the site. Any trees that require removal should be cut down and their roots left in situ.



(Left-right) poaching, vehicular damage and erosion evident on the Iron Age enclosure.

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
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1 CEFN FARM ([94115](#)) Post-Medieval SN81083872 B Specific
farmstead

The farmstead, to the south of the village of Cynhordy, is recorded as a 'U'-shaped complex on the 1886 1st edition Ordnance Survey map comprising a long farm building aligned southwest - northeast, a parallel building to the south and, on the eastern end of this, a third building aligned at right angles. By the 1905 2nd edition OS map the southern building has been extended and a new building is shown at its western end, at right angles, creating a courtyard layout. A further building is shown to the east of this complex, aligned north-north-east, south-south-west. Modern mapping shows good potential for the survival of many of these traditional buildings. The farmhouse (PRN 19870) is separate from the farm buildings, located to the north of a minor road which bisects the farmstead, with the farm buildings to the south.



Looking west, Cefn Farm with cart shed in foreground and Cefn House between the trees in the background.

The Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 11/03/2009 confirmed that many of the 19th century buildings still stand, although they have been modified, and the complex now includes a number of modern structures. The traditional buildings around the courtyard comprise a cow shed, cart shed, threshing barn, pigsty and brewhouse. The building to the east of this complex is a Dutch barn but it is uncertain whether or not this is the same structure as recorded on the 1905 map. Cefn Farm is currently a sheep farm and the farmstead buildings have been adapted or built for this purpose.



Cefn Farm cart shed.

The cart shed is located in the northeast corner of the farmstead. It is gable-ended and built from rubble stone with dressed stone quoins. The rear pitch of the roof is under corrugated-iron and the front pitch is under modern, box-profile tin. There are two square entrances in the facade, one now filled in with breeze-blocks and windows and there is a doorway in the rear wall that leads out to the courtyard. Internally, the floor is cobbled and the roof is open to the timbers.



Cefn Farm cow shed, façade and interior

Attached to the rear of the cart shed is the cow shed that runs along the northern side of the courtyard. This single-storey, gable-ended building is of similar rubble stone construction and has its rear pitch under slate, incorporating two rooflights, and the front under box-profile tin. There are two solid, wooden plank, grey painted doors in the facade and a single door in the rear wall. Internally the floor is concrete and the walls are concrete rendered, with the rear wall reinforced with breeze-blocks. There is a row of concrete stall partitions along the length of the building, currently used for lambing ewes, with a drainage channel behind them and a feeding gallery running along the rear wall. The roof is open to the timbers.

Only the rear wall survives of the continuation of this combination range, attached to the southwest of the cow shed. The rest of the building has been replaced by a modern breeze-block and box-profile tin shelter shed.



Looking northeast, rear wall of possible stable with blocked-up cart bay, with cow shed and cart shed in background

This rear wall stands to two-storey height and is of the same rubble stone construction as the cow shed. Within it is a blocked-up bay similar to those within the cart shed. The external length of this wall, together with the rear of the cow shed and side elevation of the cart shed that faces the road has been painted white.



The threshing barn

The threshing barn is located in the southeast corner of the farmstead, on the same north-north-west - south-south-east alignment as the cart shed. It is a two-storey, gable-ended building built from rubble stone with dressed stone quoins and the roof is under box-profile tin. There are ventilation loops, with internal timber lintels, within both gable and sidewalls. The high, double-door entrance now has metal doors, with box-profile tin flashing above, and the similarly sized opening in the opposite, northeast facing wall leads into a modern breeze-block and tin extension. The barn is open to the 'A'-frame roof timbers, many of which appear to be original, that rests upon the level wall tops. The owner confirmed that the roof was originally slated - some stacked slates are located behind the building - and was replaced approximately 15 years ago.

The traditional building that formed the southern side of the courtyard, adjoined to the threshing barn on the 1886 map and extended to the southwest on the 1905 map, has now gone and has been replaced by an extensive livestock shed and structures put up in the 1950s.



(Left) the pigsty, behind the breeze-block kennels, and brewhouse façade. (Right) looking southeast, side profile of the brewhouse showing evidence for former chimney.

The pigsty and brewhouse are located in the southwest corner of the farmstead and are first recorded on the 1905 map. They comprise a tall, narrow building with an off-centre pitched roof now under box-profile tin. The pigsty end of the building is of rubble stone with redbrick quoins and has two low entrances with timber lintels and solid, wooden plank, grey painted doors. The pig-pens no longer exist and a modern breeze-block kennel block is now attached, at right-angles, to the front of the pig-house and obscuring one of the doors. The brewhouse is again of rubble stone construction but with a redbrick facade. The owner remembers the building having a substantial chimney and the location of this is evident within the north-facing end wall, now capped-off at roof level. A modern, open-ended extension is now attached to the rear of the building, leading through to a breeze-block and concrete sheepfold.



Looking south, Cefn Farm Dutch barn

The Dutch barn is located to the southeast of the historic farmyard, on the same north-north-east - south-south-west alignment as a building depicted on the 1905 map and cut away at its southern end to accommodate the modern livestock shed.

CEFN HOUSE ([19870](#))

**Post-Medieval
farmhouse**

SN81103871 B

Generic

The current farmhouse (PRN 94115) at Cefn Farm is recorded on the 1886 1st edition and 1905 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps. It was noted during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 11/03/2009 that there was still a remnant of the mixed woodland behind the house as recorded on the late 19th-early 20th century maps. There is also a disused boundary line, in the form of a low earthbank, marking the extent of the rear garden.



Boundary earthworks and woodland behind Cefn House

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 - see also General Requirements section B2

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 that 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.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:

The following individual traditional buildings are subject to specific management prescriptions that are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over these generic requirements:

Site 1 on MAP 1

CEFN FARM [94115](#)

SN81083872

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

The 19th century buildings at Cefn Farm have been incorporated into the modern farmstead and new uses have been found for them. They have therefore been maintained and made weathertight, although not with traditional materials. Grant aid is available through Tir Gofal for the maintenance and repair of traditional buildings. Tir Gofal advice advocates the use of materials that match those used originally. Repairs should be undertaken on a like for like basis, modelled on the originals using similar materials and methods of construction. Future maintenance should consider how best to keep the character of the farmstead group as a whole, rather than focusing on one particular building at the expense of the others. No essential repairs or maintenance issues were raised by the owner or noted during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit so any recommendations relate to possible historical enhancement of the buildings' appearance.

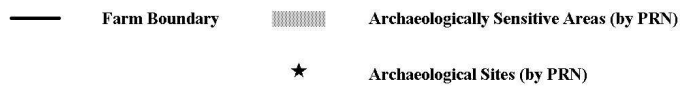
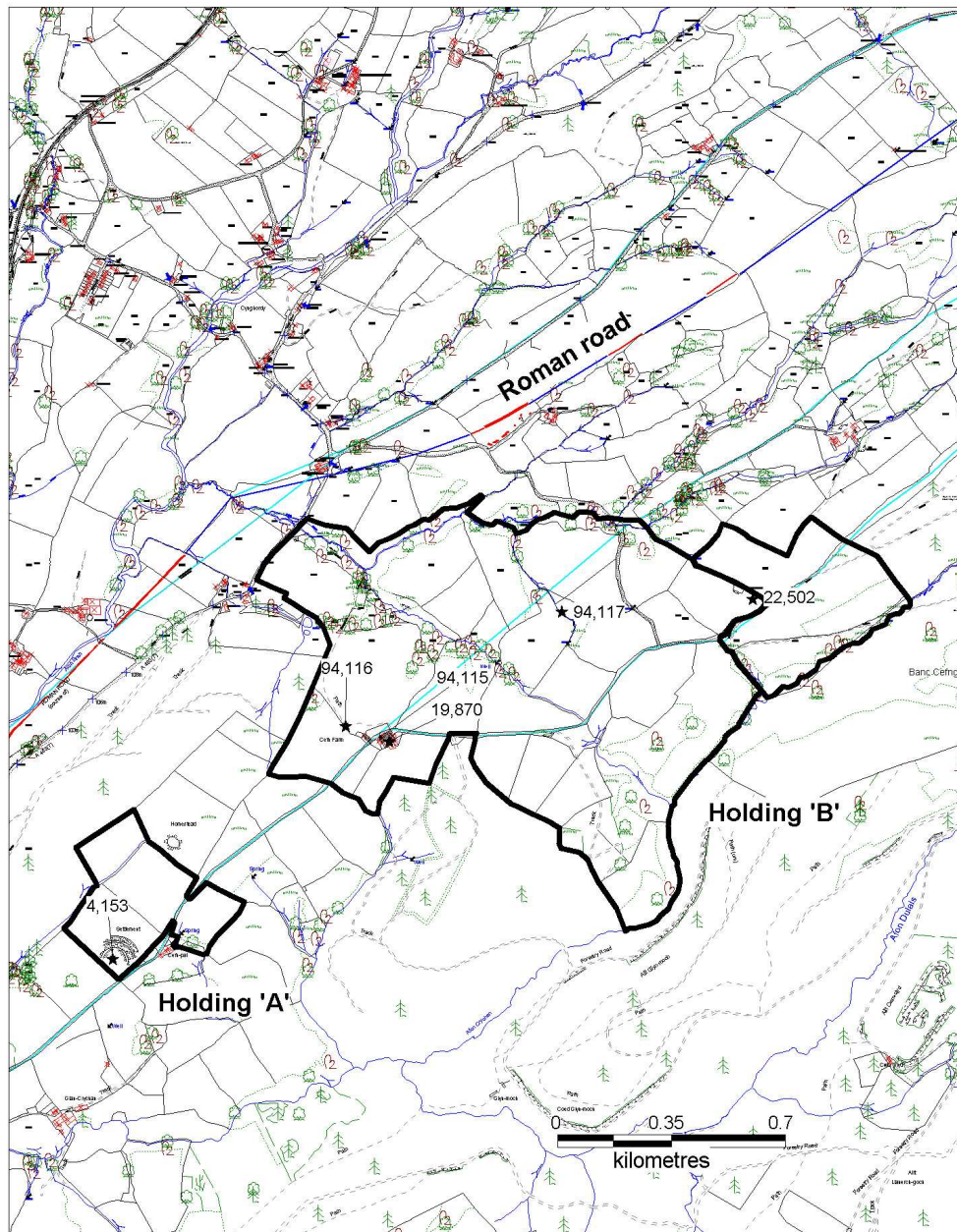
- Reinstall joinery elements (doors, windows) to traditional specifications. Inappropriate doors and windows can significantly impair the character of a historic building. Ideally the metal doors would be removed from the threshing barn and replaced with traditional solid wooden plank doors, in keeping with the style and age of the building.
- Joinery should be finished in a historic paint colour, based on evidence from within the farmstead itself. Grey paint is evident on the cow shed, cart shed and pigsty. Stained or varnished finishes are not appropriate.
- Ideally the roofs of the traditional buildings would be returned to slate, although it is recognised that such a move would be prohibitively expensive and, considering that the buildings are weathertight, somewhat impractical. It is suggested that any further repairs should be carried out with curved-profile galvanised corrugated-iron, a cheap and durable

alternative to traditional slate and now a recognised historic material in its own right, rather than the modern box-profile tin.

- The outer surface of the corrugated-iron should be painted a matt red or black colour, which is historically appropriate.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area



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Fig 1: Location map of farm holdings and sites of archaeological interest



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Fig 2: Map showing Cefn Pal Iron Age enclosure (PRN 4153).



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Fig 3: Map of Cefn Farm (PRN 94115).

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Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk, website www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

This HE2 report supersedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1886 Carmarthenshire Sheet 18.07

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet 18.03

Murphy F et al, 2008, A Survey of Defended Enclosures In Carmarthenshire 2007-08, (DAT).