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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Trefach**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/13/6516**



Castell Trefach

**DAT Report No. 2010/26
Project Record No. 64986**

**Prepared by
Mike Ings**

**Other documents enclosed:
Listed Building descriptions: number 12807 Trefach Mill**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Trefach Farm comprises two holdings of land, one in the community of Nevern, Pembrokeshire, centred on NGR SN08514090, and the second in Laugharne township community, Carmarthenshire, centred on NGR SN31660806. As no archaeological sites are recorded within the latter holding the HE2 farm visit concentrated solely on the Pembrokeshire holding.

The Pembrokeshire holding is depicted on the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as being within a landscape of medium-large fields that tend towards the regular in shape, characteristic of possible 16th-17th century enclosure. Many of the boundaries within the holding have subsequently been removed to create large, open areas of, predominantly, improved pasture. Deciduous woodland, Coed Trefach, runs north-south through the centre of the holding. It is understood that the northernmost fields of this holding have been rented out and do not fall within the Tir Gofal scheme.

Archaeological and Historic Content

Prehistoric activity is evident within the area of the Pembrokeshire holding with, to the north of the farm boundary, the Trelyffaint Neolithic chambered tomb and the Trelyffaint Bronze Age standing stone, while Nevern Castle, the site of an Iron Age hillfort, and later medieval occupation, is beyond the southern boundary. Within the holding is Castell Trefach, an Iron Age promontary fort and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE353, PRN 1595). This well-preserved site is located on a steep natural scarp and is defended to the north by a single bank and ditch.

The Trefach farmstead (PRN 94131) incorporates a Grade II listed building (LB), the early 19th century Trefach Mill (LB12807). Two traditional farm buildings, a cow shed and a cart shed also survive, while a cottage site, Pwll-Marl (PRN 94129), is now abandoned and ruinous. The main Trefach farmstead complex to the north of these buildings, including the Grade II listed 19th century farmhouse, has now been rented out and is not included within the Tir Gofal scheme.

A full gazetteer of the recorded archaeology within the farm boundaries appears below.

Key Objective

The management priority for this farm is the preservation and maintenance of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE353), for which Cadw will provide advice. Otherwise, a key objective is the retention of landscape continuity through the sympathetic maintenance of field boundaries and the upkeep of traditional buildings.

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
1	CASTELL TREFACH (1595)	Iron Age hillfort	SN08674082	A	SAM PE353	Specific

A well-preserved inland promontory hillfort, Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE353) situated on the confluence of two streams and defended in the east and west by steep, natural scarps. A defensive single bank and ditch are in the north, the bank being 3 metres high externally, 2.75 metres high internally. The ditch is now filled in and the entrance is probably at the eastern end.



Looking northeast across the interior of the enclosure, with defensive bank lined by oaks



Looking southwest across area of quarry (PRN 94133)

The site was seen, during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 15/04/2010, to now be under a cover of grass and broadleaf woodland.

[\(94134\)](#)

**Post-Medieval
footbridge**

SN08884098 C

Generic

Footbridge recorded on the 1889 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Shown as site of a ford on modern mapping and was seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (15/04/2010), crossing a modern hardcore farm track.

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 which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

Site 1 on MAP 1

CASTELL TREFACH [\(1595\)](#)

SN08674082

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

As Castell Trefach is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM PE353) it is regularly monitored by CADW. Below is the last CADW monitoring report (2005), together with recommendations for the site's management within Tir Gofal made in consultation with the CADW Field Monument Warden (FMW).

SAM Pe353, Tre-Fach Camp.

L. Mees, Cadw FMW, 15/09/2005: The description of the site remains unchanged from the previous reports. The site is now under new ownership. The following changes in condition, as a result of new management, have occurred;

- 1) The adjacent field has been re-seeded. The field was not ploughed, it was surface cultivated.
- 2) The gorse, scrub, brambles etc. on the inner elevation of the defensive bank have been reduced by cutting (though re-growth has occurred and is still a problem). Some of the brash has been dumped on the north-western part of the interior.

The following points regarding condition were also noted:

- 1) Some boughs have fallen from mature oak trees on the defensive bank.
- 2) There is one active badger sett on the defensive bank (external side). The grass cover around the old badger sett, to the west of the active sett, has improved.
- 3) Grass cover over the remainder of the site is good.

Condition: worsened.



Oaks growing on the enclosure bank.

The following points regarding condition were also noted:

- 1) Some boughs have fallen from mature oak trees on the defensive bank.
- 2) There is one active badger sett on the defensive bank (external side). The grass cover around the old badger sett, to the west of the active sett, has improved.
- 3) Grass cover over the remainder of the site is good.

Condition: worsened.

Current Management:

The farm is registered as organic. Cattle graze the monument and associated field all year. Sheep are not kept on the farm.

The interior of the monument is grass pasture, in good condition. Mature oaks grow on the defensive bank, with an understorey of gorse, scrub and brambles on the inner side. Some oak boughs have fallen.

There is one active badger sett on the external side and one area of redundant sett, which is recovering in condition. Should the sett lie within the badger cull area it is recommended that it is infilled after the cull. This has been done at a few sites where badger setts have been abandoned.

SAM owners have applied to the AgriEnvironment Policy Branch of WAG (see attached licence application form). The contact in WAG is Kathleen.Carroll@wales.gsi.gov.uk tel: 01970 610214.

The scheduled area had not been ploughed within the 6 years prior to the last FMW visit, so agricultural class consent does not apply and ploughing is not permitted.

The technique of surface cultivation should not have been used within the scheduled area without scheduled monument consent.

The vegetation on the interior side of the bank had been reduced since the previous FMW visit, though new re-growth is still a problem. Dumping of brash within the scheduled area is not permitted.



Badger sett within the enclosure bank

Recommendations for Management within the Tir Gofal Scheme:

The aim of the management should be to retain a good grass cover within the scheduled area. The scheduled area had not been ploughed within the 6 years prior to the last FMW visit, so agricultural class consent does not apply and ploughing is not permitted. Pasture regeneration by surface cultivation requires scheduled monument consent.

The condition of the site could be improved by the following:

- 1) Cutting split boughs from trees. Removing the felled boughs and fallen boughs from the defensive bank and scheduled area.
- 2) Hand cutting gorse and scrubby vegetation from the southern (internal) side of the defensive bank and removing debris from the scheduled area.
- 3) Removing debris from the previous cutting, from the northwest side of the scheduled area.

Tir Gofal General Requirements and Historic Environment Objectives should be applied to the site.

Site 2 on MAP 1

PWLL-MARL ([94129](#))

SN09014059

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

The building has been reduced to a ruin, completely roofless and many stretches of walling now gone. These ruins are now under threat from encroaching vegetation and some control would be advised. The remaining wall tops might also benefit from consolidation.

Preventative maintenance

Monitor trees close to the building and consider felling mature trees that are at risk of windthrow. Remove any branches that pose a threat from falling.

Consider cutting back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

Consider capping the wall tops of derelict and ruinous structures in order to prevent water from washing out lime mortar bonds and accelerating collapse.

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
3	TREFACH (94131)	Post-Medieval farmstead	SN08574114	B		Specific

A substantial farmstead recorded on historic Ordnance Survey maps, incorporating two Grade II listed buildings, Trefach Mill (LB12807) and Trefach farmhouse (LB12806). The main, rectangular planned farmstead complex around the historic farmhouse falls outside of the Tir Gofal application boundary. The farmhouse now associated with Trefach Farm is Ty Newydd and three traditional farm buildings survive within its farmstead, recorded as part of the Tir Gofal farm visit of 15/04/2010. These include Trefach Mill (PRN 58966) and the surviving remains of a cow shed and a cart shed.



Western end and north-facing wall of the Trefach cow shed

The cow shed and cart shed lie to the west of the mill and are depicted on the late 19th - early 20th century OS maps as a single long range, some 30 metres in length and aligned east-west. Further buildings abutting the southern wall of the range are now gone. The range comprises an abutting cow shed and cart shed, which have since been substantially altered. A section in the centre of the range has been demolished, separating the cart shed from the cow shed.



Partially demolished eastern end of the cow shed

The sidewalls of the cow shed have been shortened and consolidated with breezeblocks and concrete, and the building is now open-ended. Nothing of the original roof remains and the west-facing gable has gone completely having been replaced with curving, semi-circular, corrugated-iron that sits upon the reinforced wall tops. The outer walls, and parts of the inner walls, have been rendered with concrete and capped, in part, with red bricks. Three blocked doorways are discernible within the north-facing wall and there is a possible blocked-up window in the southern wall. The interior is now an open space, taken down below the level of the original loft space, and used as a calf shelter.



View from within the cow shed, looking towards the, now separated, eastern gable end and cart shed

The cart shed is now much modified. Both gable-ends survive to full height and the original, A-frame roof timbers are intact, the roof has been replaced in similar fashion to the cow shed, with curved corrugated-iron sheeting now supported by timber poles. The rear, south-facing wall still stands to full height but the the facade has partly collapsed, meaning that its historic appearance is now difficult to discern.



North-facing façade of the cart shed, with stone pillar (under vegetation) in foreground

There is a doorway, with solid wood plank door, to the loft within the east-facing gable and sawn-off timbers within the rear wall indicate that the loft once extended across the whole building. Steps leading up to the loft door are depicted on the historical OS maps. The building is now used as a storage area.



Interior of cart shed, with eastern gable and loft entrance.

4 TREFACH MILL Post-Medieval mill SN0861741115 A LB12807 Specific
[\(58966\)](#)

The site of an early 19th century mill standing on the eastern edge of the Trefach farmstead. The building is Grade II listed (LB 12807). The mill was recorded during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (15/04/2010).



Looking east, the Grade II Listed Trefach Mill PRN 58966)

It is aligned southwest - northeast and backs onto a steep, western bank of a stream, just below a waterfall. A remnant of the waterwheel and housing is still in situ. The building is of rubble stone construction with semi-dressed quoins and the roof is slated. The main entrance is a wide, timber-framed doorway, in the northwest facing wall, with a lintel of vertically pitched stones (voussoirs). A remnant of one of the original timber doors hangs from a long, iron hinge.



Looking north, roof timbers within Trefach Mill

The interior is open to the roof timbers, the trusses held together by iron pins, and much of the lime plaster torching beneath the slates survives. As the mill backs onto a slope it is on two levels, with the rear of the building dropping to the level of the stream, within which is an arched doorway that leads out to the wheel pit and a second door in the southwestern wall.



The wheel pit at the rear of Trefach Mill

The rear wall of the mill has been buttressed. The roof has collapsed in several areas and there is thick vegetation on the walls, both inside and out, including some scrubby trees, ivy, and bracken.

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 which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)

8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:

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

Site 3 on MAP 1

TREFACH [\(94131\)](#)

SN08574114

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

The traditional buildings within the farmstead, although not individually listed, fall within the curtilage of the listed mill and farmhouse and may be subject to the same constraints. As such, it is recommended that any repair works to the buildings within the farmstead are discussed with the local authority building consultation officer.

The cow shed and cart shed have undergone a number of changes to retain their usefulness in the modern farmstead, the most dramatic being the shortening of the cow shed, presumably to allow passage through the centre of the complex, that divorces its end gable from the rest of the building. Both buildings have had their pitched, presumably slated (to match the mill), roofs replaced by curved corrugated-iron and both are consolidated by modern materials - breezeblocks and concrete reinforce the cow shed and wooden poles and breezeblocks support the cart shed. Returning these buildings to their original appearance is not practicable and would prove very expensive.

Both buildings are weathertight but certain measures are recommended to help stabilise the buildings as they are and to help enhance their appearance. These include the removal of vegetation growing on the external walls, consolidation of the, now exposed, masonry on top of the middle gable and possible reconstruction of the remaining stone facade of the cart shed to help support the roof. The concrete render on the outer wall of the cow shed is flaking off but the removal of the remainder can be problematical and may cause damage to the stone fabric beneath (further information regarding the removal of concrete render is available from The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings at Spab.org.uk).

Cut back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

Consider capping the wall tops in order to prevent water from washing out lime mortar bonds and accelerating collapse.

Repair of walls should aim to match the original appearance as closely as possible, using similar materials and methods of construction.

Match the type of stone used originally and the method of laying. Fallen stone may be salvageable, although additional local rubble stone brought to rough courses is appropriate.

Site 4 on MAP 1

TREFACH MILL [\(58966\)](#)

SN0861741115

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

Trefach Mill is a Grade II listed building so any work that affects the character of the building requires listed building consent. Consent is not required for routine repairs, maintenance or work of like-for-like repair but advice should be sought from

the local planning authority to establish whether the works constitute repairs or maintenance.

The most pressing need for repair appears to be the roof, particularly the northeast corner of the building where some timbers have collapsed, exposing the interior to the elements. Other roof timbers, generally to the rear of the mill, have broken or fallen and the supported slates have become dislodged, again creating holes in the roof.



Collapsed timbers within northeast corner of Trefach Mill

As the building is no longer weathertight there are signs of dampness on the interior walls, particularly on the north-facing elevation, and the heavy vegetation that covers much of the exterior of the mill is also encroaching inside. Further, smaller-scale renovation is required on the front elevation of the roof, where slates have slipped or are missing. Some areas of masonry also require remedial action, for example above the north-facing window where the stones have eroded, although the full extent of this is masked by the vegetation growth.

Repair and maintenance

The primary aim should be to return the mill to a stable and weathertight condition using historically appropriate materials and methods of construction. As a general rule remedial work should be guided by the need to ensure long-term survival while maintaining the character of the building.

Repair is always preferable to replacement, keeping as much of the original fabric of the building in place as possible. Replacement is only to be carried out where it is absolutely necessary.

Replacing roof timbers: As a general rule, replacement features should be modelled on similar surviving examples. Where these do not exist the emphasis should be on matching details appropriate for the locality and the age of the building.

Repair or replace missing or displaced roof slates.

Repair of walls should aim to match the original appearance as closely as possible, using similar materials and methods of construction.

Match the type of stone used originally and the method of laying. Fallen stone may be salvageable, although additional local rubble stone brought to rough courses is appropriate.

Consolidate area of loose masonry using traditional lime mortar mix, trying to follow the original mix and appearance as far as possible.

Cut back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots in situ. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.

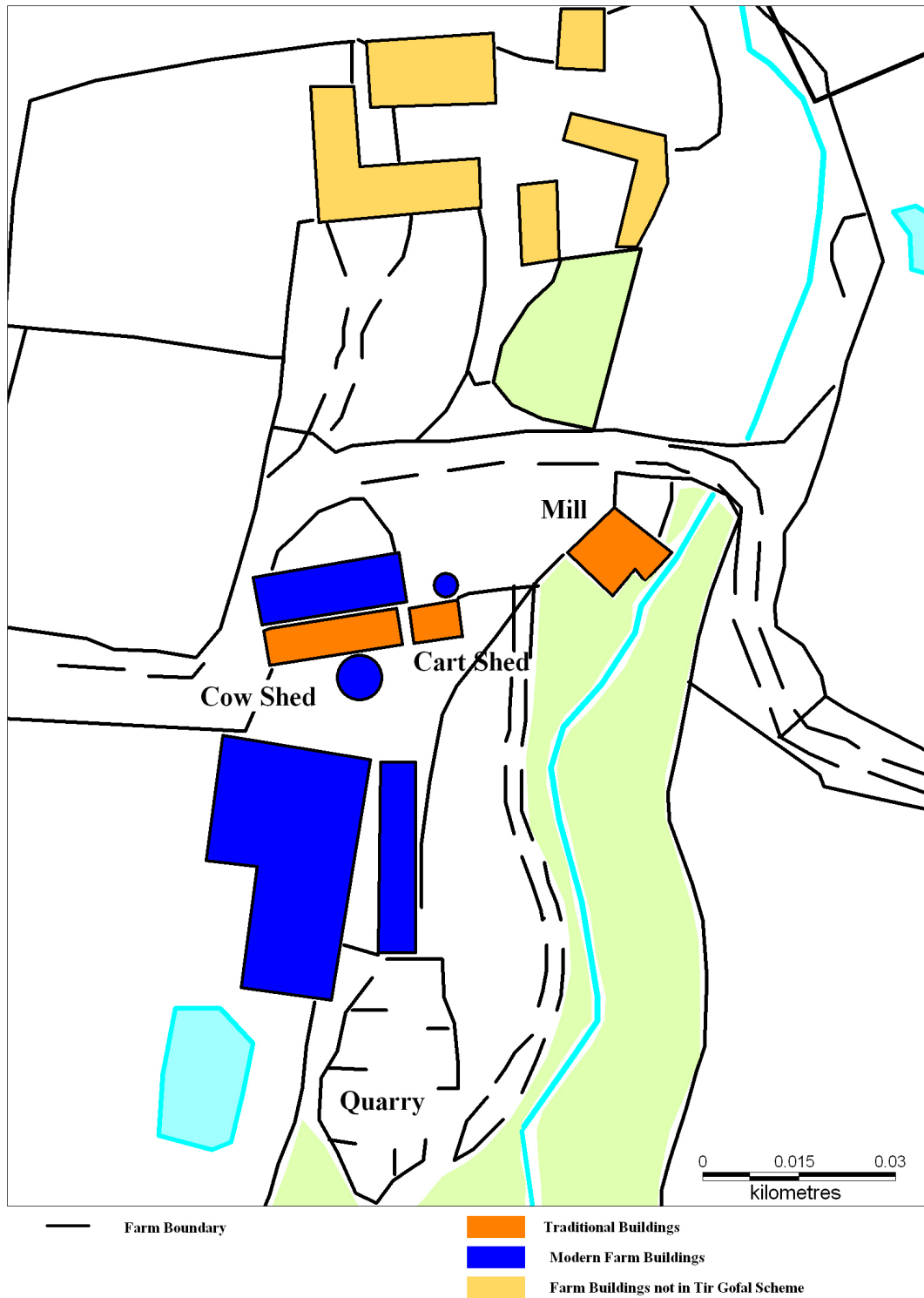
Historical enhancement

A secondary aim if funding is available is to enhance the historic external character of the building by repairing or reinstating historic doors or windows. Only a remnant of the main entrance door survives and the timber frame within the north-facing window aperture is detached and broken.

Reinstate joinery elements to traditional specifications.

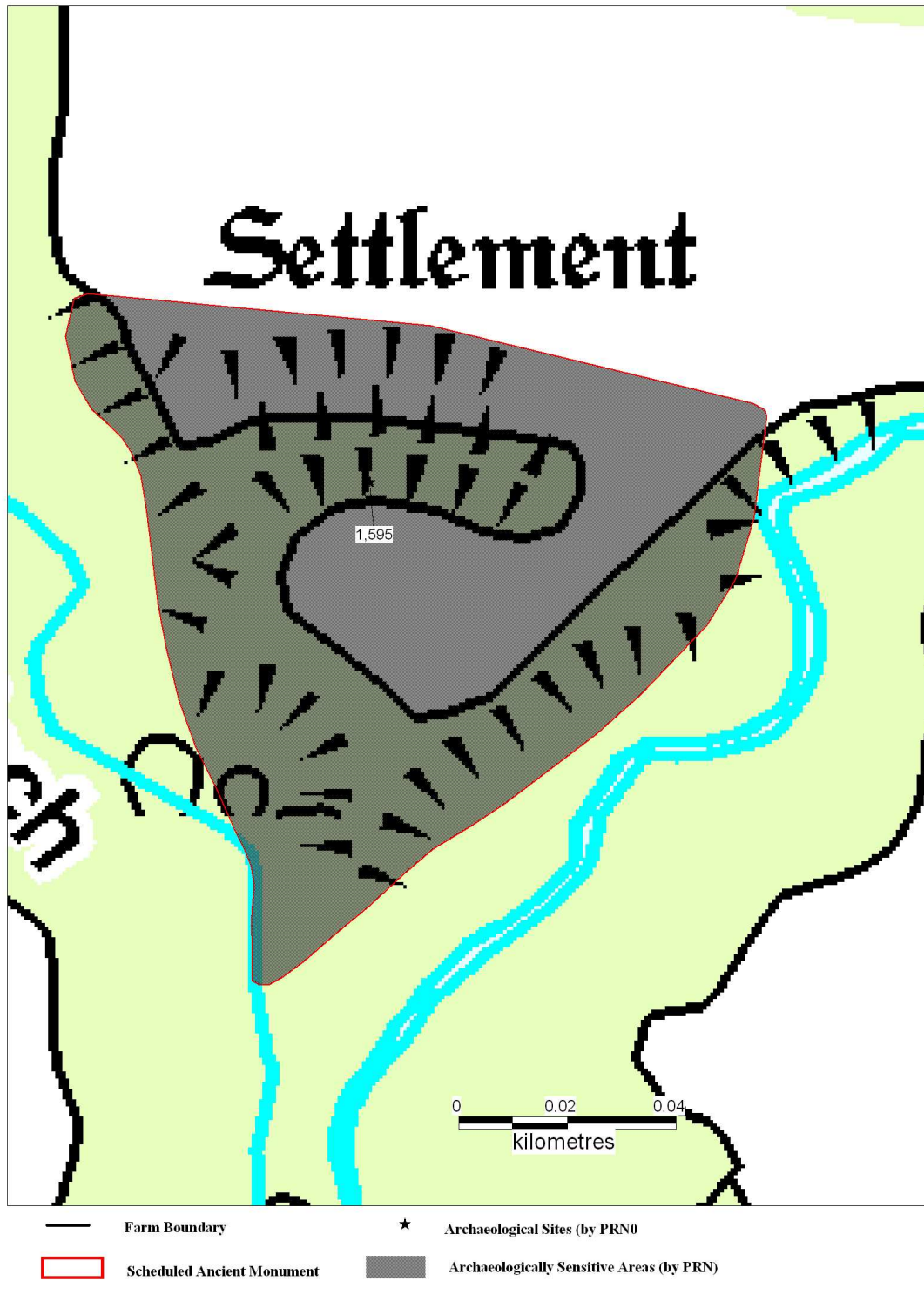
iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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



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Fig 2: Plan of Trefach farmstead (PRN 94131), showing location of traditional farm buildings, Trefach Mill (PRN 58966) and complex not included within the Tir Gofal scheme.



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Fig 3: Map showing the extent of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM PE353)

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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 1889 Pembrokeshire Sheet 06.05, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1907 Pembrokeshire Sheet 06.05, 25"

Listed Building Description

LB 12807 Trefach Mill

A rare surviving example of an early C19 mill building with some machinery in Dyfed.

Interior: Deeply sunk E side, loft floor in NE gable, 5-bay collar-truss roof to W range and three-bay roof to gable. Remnant of machinery. Derelict condition but renovation for domestic use proposed 1992.

Exterior: Rubble stone with slate roof, square plan with roof hipped at NE angle. Single storey to front, dropping steeply to rear where there is basement ground floor and loft. W front has elliptical arched cart entry to right with cut stone voussoirs. Roof hip to left and N side has door and window above. E front, to stream, has gable to right with loft window in centre, then, set to left, large elliptical arched doorway with timber sill and vertical groove running down to arched basement doorway to wheelpit. Hub of iron overshot wheel. To left of gable is long pent roof to mid-height of adjoining elliptical-arched doorway. Buttressed wall and one opening to left of buttress. South end has one basement opening and one window.