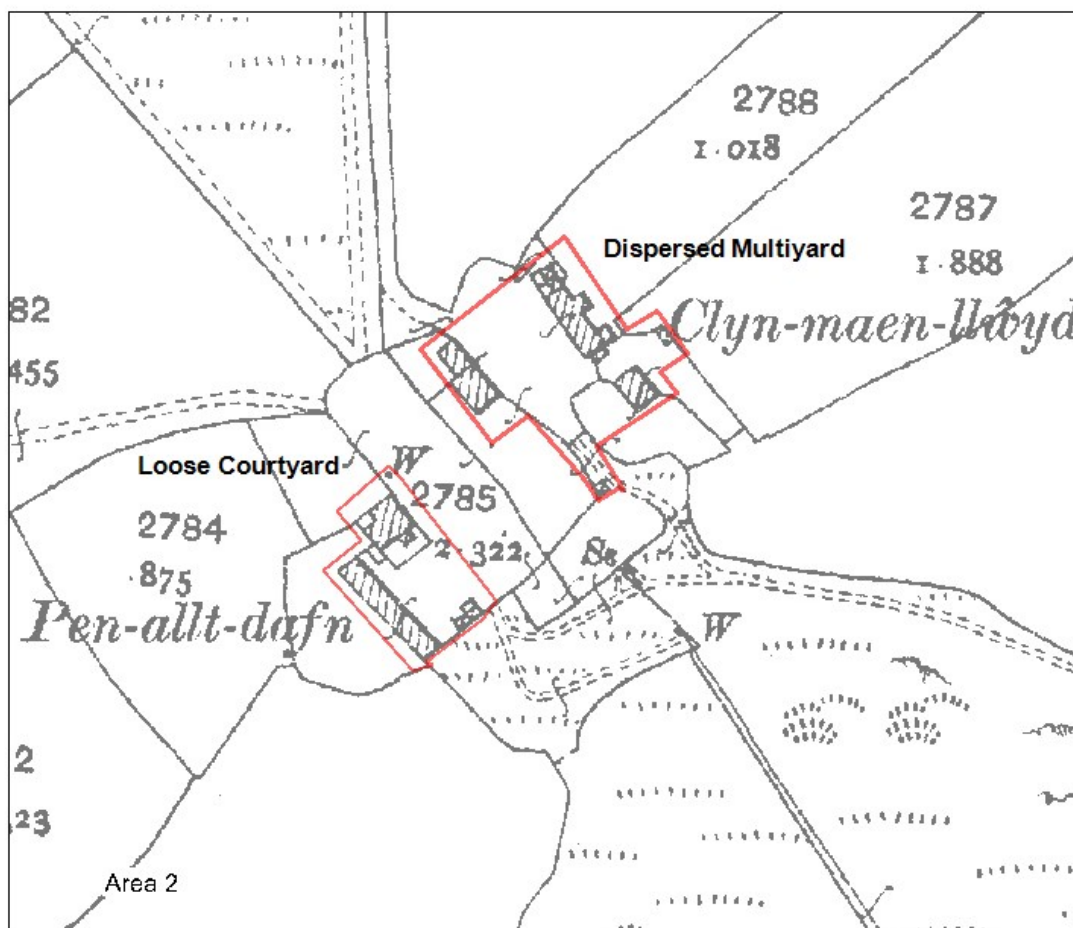# HISTORIC FARMSTEAD RECORDING:

Recording Project Pilot Study (Carmarthenshire)

Map extract OS 2nd Edition showing two farmsteads in the Community of Cynwylelfed Community.

Prepared by
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Cadw

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2018/06
EVENT RECORD NO. 111361

January 2018

HISTORIC FARMSTEAD RECORDING;

Recording Project Pilot Study (Carmarthenshire)

By

Emma Jones, Ken Murphy

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING;

Recording Project Pilot Study (Carmarthenshire)

SUMMARY

This is a Cadw-funded project.

The project methodology was based upon the one used by HERs in England and subsequently adapted by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust to record traditional buildings in Radnorshire. This project was a desk-based, rapid recording exercise using historic and modern Ordnance Survey GIS mapping in conjunction with aerial photography. Over the course of the pilot c.550 farmsteads were identified and characterised and an appraisal of their survival was made.

This report comprises a description of the approach taken, a summary of the results and recommendations for further work based on the issues encountered.

1   INTRODUCTION

This was a project to identify and characterise historic farmsteads across an area of central and southern Carmarthenshire; it was funded by Cadw and undertaken by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The project also appraised and indicated the survival of each historic farmstead.   The project was entirely GIS based; specifically using the MapInfo GIS software and digitized mapping resources.

An aim of the pilot was to test the methodology used across England to characterise historic farmsteads, with the outcome to inform the development of a consistent approach to the identification and characterisation of historic farmsteads across Wales.

A project start-up meeting was held at the offices of CPAT in June 2017. The meeting was attended by staff from each of the Welsh Trusts, from Cadw and Jeremy Lake who attended in his role as consultant to the project. At the meeting it was agreed that the WATs would follow the methodology developed by the Historic England (HE)for recording traditional farm buildings in the West Midlands (Lake and Edwards, 2015) with adaptations based on the experiences of staff at CPAT.

The DAT pilot project was undertaken over 15 days between September 2017–January 2018, of which 12 days were spent identifying and recording farmsteads. Over this period c.550 records were created across 40 historic map tiles. The results are held within two standalone MapInfo tables; the data will be incorporated into the HER when dataset has been validated.

2.   METHODOLOGY

The detailed methodology, upon which this project is based, was developed by HE in 2009 to ensure consistency of recording historic farmsteads across the West Midlands (Lake and Edwards, 2015)

The HE guidelines have been revised to assist the WATs with their recording process, the revised guidelines have been made available by Jeremy Lake and this document has been used to assist with the completion of this project (Lake and Edwards, 2017).

Jeremy Lake visited the DAT offices in November 2017 where the DAT methodology was reviewed and agreed to be acceptable.

The area selected for the DAT pilot study was a block of 2nd edition map tiles, northwestern-most point at Trelech, Carms (NGR SN2631) to a southeastern-most point at Llansteffan, Carms (NGR SN3609). This incorporates parts of the communities of Trelech, Cynwylelfed, Abernant, Meidrim, Newchurch and Merthyr, St Clears, Llangynog, Llanddowror, Laugharne and Llansteffan. It comprises an area of c.155 square kilometers in total (Figure 1).

The 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map was used as a base map and was overlaid by the 2013 Ordnance Survey MasterMap layers. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map was chosen as it provides a coherent coverage of Wales close to the start of the First World War. In addition to the modern mapping, the 2004, "Next Perspectives" vertical aerial photography GIS layer was also used to verify the presence of the buildings identified and to assess survival of the historic farmstead.

2.   Two MapInfo tables were created one to capture the farmstead polygons and associated data, see Table 1; the second table was created to show the area covered by the project.
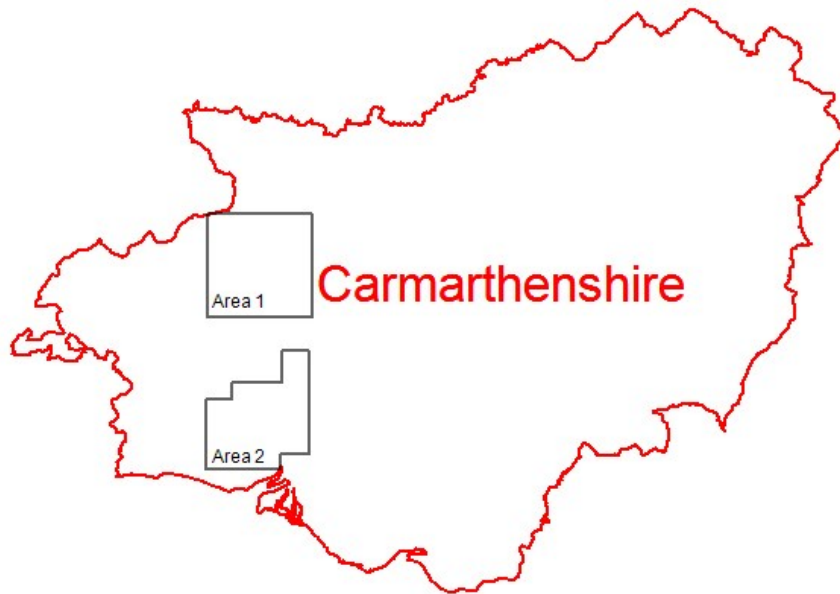

Figure 1: Map location of the pilot study area in Carmarthenshire (outlined in red)

Following discussions between Emma Jones, Ken Murphy and Jeremy Lake it was agreed a single polygon would be created to represent each farmstead. DAT polygons have been devised to demonstrate the shape and relative size of the historic farmstead and have been devised to encompass the farm buildings; the polygons do not respect the curtilages or paddock boundaries.

The data compilation process comprised two stages. **(1): Historic farmstead identification/polygonisation** and **(2): site analysis and data compilation.**

(1) Historic farmsteads were identified and polygons were drawn in this stage to establish the number sites within the pilot. During this process it was decided to complete two pilot study blocks, rather than one uninterrupted corridor from north to south; this was due to time constraints (Figure 1, above).

Farmsteads were included if they were identified by a site name on the historic map and had an identifiable agricultural/subsistence element. There are some exceptions, for example, where a site showed an agricultural element but has no identified name. Also, there are many very small sites, below .02 ha in size, where the farmstead would have been little more than a cottage (with small attached barn, and unattached structure such as a pigsty), it was considered appropriate to include these as they are dominant features of the historic rural economy in some areas. This approach might be revised for future work.

At this stage it was also agreed to exclude farmsteads located on the fringe of historic nucleated settlements, due to the difficulty of identification of sites within the time constraints. This approach may be revised for future work.

(2) The historic mapping was used to define the plan-type of each farmstead. The historic mapping was then viewed against the current mapping and aerial photography to assess how much of the historic farmstead survives. Data was

compiled using the one outlined within the HE methodology, (later refined to reflect the requirements of the WATs), see Table 1 below.

Field Name	Format	Notes
PRN	Unique Number	Not used by DAT, Mon_UID will form refno (but PRNs could be created if required)
Site Name	Modern Name (historic name)	Modern farm name with historic name recorded in brackets
Classification Primary Attribute	FARMSTEAD OUTFARM	Defined as a site with farmhouse and associated working buildings Defined as a site (outfarm) or individual building range (field barn) remote from the farmhouse - DAT - classified all as FARMSTEADS at this stage, would need to reappraise to distinguish OUTFARMS
Date_HM Date_WB	Fields retained for use when dates can be speedily extracted and/or analysed from listed building and HER data – not possible for this project (2017)	
Plan Type	This results from combination of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Plan Attributes	
Plan Type Primary Attribute	DISP LC LIN LP PAR RC ROW SING UNC	(see recording manual for details)
Plan Type Secondary Attribute	1,2,3,4 L U E ful cl dw my cov d y LIN/LP can appear are secondary or tertiary features	(see recording manual for details)
Plan Type Tertiary Attribute	Code as per Secondary Attribute	(see recording manual for details)
Farmhouse Position	ATT DETFAR DETAWAY UNC	
Survival	EXT ALT ALTS DEM HOUS	Extant – no apparent alteration Partial Loss – less than 50% change Significant Loss - more than 50 alteration No OS 2nd edition buildings legible Farmhouse only survives

	LOST	Farmstead/outfarm totally demolished
Sheds	SITE	Large modern sheds on site of historic farmstead
	SIDE	Large modern sheds to side of historic farmstead
Size	Area in Hectares	(Original structure required Scale – a diagonal measurement, DAT decide to use area as more appropriate.
Converted Buildings?	Yes/No	DAT did not sue, but comment made in notes to suggest converted buildings where apparent
Confidence	H M L	High Medium Low **NB: DAT not clear on which bit the confidence relates to is it survival or plan form? Could lead to confusion with later use to the information.**
Notes	Free text field for comments	
HER Mon_UID	Mon_UID	To be added at a later date

Table 1: The historic building recording table structure and attributes

3   RESULTS

It was not within the scope of this project to analyse the results of the pilot but Table 3 and Figure 2 give an indication of how the data may be used to identify patterns regarding type and survival.

At the end of the recording process a total of c.550 farmstead polygons were created. Table 2 shows the percentage of each Primary Plan Type, Table 3 shows percentage of recorded farmsteads.

Plan Type – Primary Attribute	% Number of Farmsteads Recorded
DISP (dispersed)	18 %
LC (loose courtyard)	27%
LIN (linear)	37 %
PAR (parallel)	2%
RC (regular courtyard)	7%
ROW (row)	2%
ALL OTHERS, INC UNC	7%

Table 2: % Number of each Primary Site Type identified

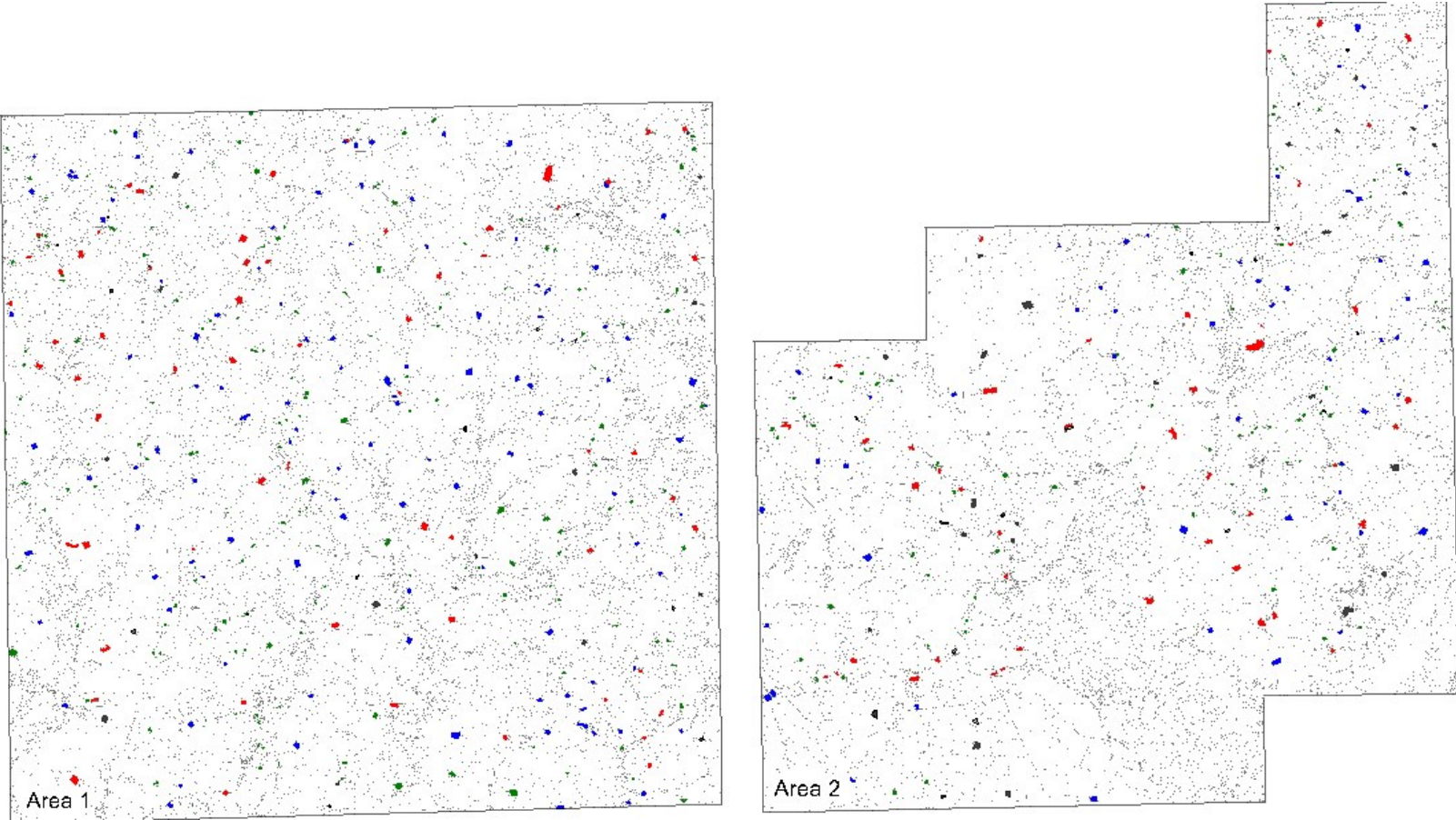| Survival	% Number of Farmsteads Recorded
EXT (extant, no change)	4%
ALT (minor change <50%)	14%
ALTS (major change >50%)	38%
DEM (demolished)	18%
HOUS (farmhouse only survives)	4%
LOST(no evidence of farmstead)	14%
UNCERTAIN	8%

Table 3: % Survival of recorded farmsteads

Figure 2: Distribution of main types in area 1 and 2

Farmsteads by Primary Attribute
- Dispersed
- Loose Courtyard
- Linear
- Regular Courtyard
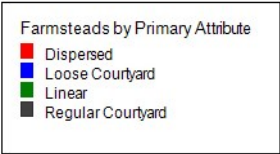
4   PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RECCOMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

The rapid approach to identification and recording of farmsteads has its limitations, for example, it was difficult to justify spending sufficient on problematic sites. This will always be an issue when conducting rapid surveys but if end-users of the data are aware of the rapid data acquisition, and with the inclusion of more meaningful confidence fields (see below) the dataset will be useful.

The notes field is of limited used because it is unstructured nature, and the rapidity of the process could lead to an over-reliance on this field to record information that should be included elsewhere. A structured set of confidence fields would be more helpful for future users of the data. Confidence tags should be attached to the Survival and Plan Type Attributes data fields; the current Confidence field is too vague as it is not clear to end-users to what the confidence relates.

The discrepancies in the projections of the modern Ordnance Survey data over the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey mapping, and registration issues with the aerial photographic data led to issues, these added to the time taken to appraise sites. The modern MasterMap building polygons were offset from the buildings shown on the historic mapping, a disparity which was inconsistent as the degree of error varied, these problems were described by Menna Bell in her DAT work recording historic buildings in The Brecon Beacons National Park for the ABC Project (Bell, 2017). It was generally relatively easy to correlate the buildings but in such instances the process took more time than was ideal and it was not always possible. In these instances, the aerial photography proved to be of use.

The aerial photography was essential for the appraisal of farmstead survival, but the resolution of the Next Perspectives dataset was such that it was hard to use at an appropriate scale especially to establish which building is/was the farmhouse on problematic sites. More recent coverage may be of higher resolution/quality, it is recommended that acquisition of alternative coverage is investigated.

Within the timescale for the pilot project it was not possible to conduct site visits. It is recommended that a series of site visits be made to appraise the work carried out so far, and for future work regular ground-truthing field-trips are scheduled within the programme.

Using the GIS to compile and hold the data is a quick way of capturing information but due to the rapid process avoidable data entry errors were made. For the purpose of this pilot it was not a problem as the dataset is small and errors are quickly identified and corrected. This will problematic when the project is expanded; therefore it may be useful to look at improved systems (such as use of pick-lists) for entering data to ensure consistency. The use of pick-lists will also improve the time taken to record each farmstead.

5   CONCLUSIONS

In principle, the methodology used is a straightforward and effective way to capture a large amount of data as an exercise in rapid recording. Discrepancies between the historic and modern mapping are inevitable but this is generally overcome by the use of mapping in conjunction with aerial photography.

However, as with any exercise of rapid recording, there are pitfalls and caveats which inherently affect the quality of the data captured. Without field verification is has not been possible to check the accuracy of the data captured.

Whilst this data is of a low resolution, it is nevertheless, a coherent baseline dataset which provides a platform for enhancement and further investigation and can be used to identify broad patterns relating to form and survival of farmsteads.

6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The digistisation, analysis and reporting was undertaken by Emma Jones with guidance from Ken Murphy. The author would like to offer grateful thanks to Jeremy Lake for his assistance throughout the project.

7 SOURCES

Bell M (DAT): 2017 Historic building recording: Polygonisation of historic buildings in the western area of the Brecon Beacons National Park, DAT Report No 2016/70
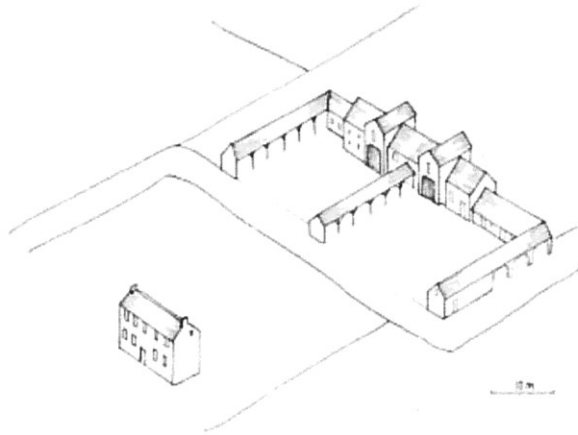
Next Perspectives: 2004 High Resolution Aerial Photography

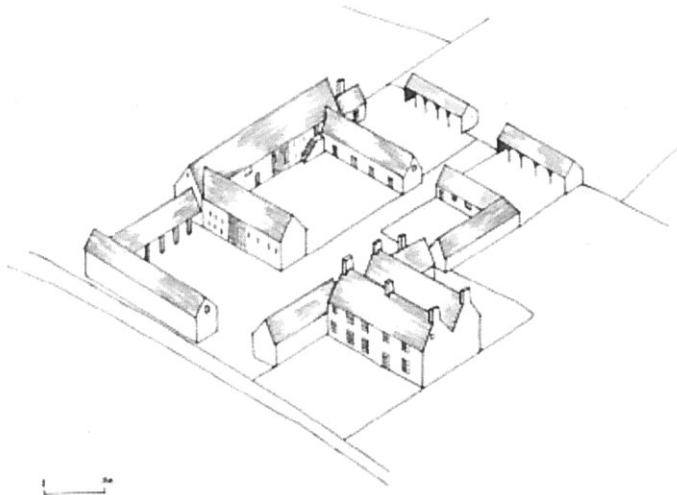Ordnance Survey: 1906 : 2nd edition, 1 : 2500, Carmarthenshire

Ordnance Survey: 2013 Mastermap, 1:2500

Lake and Edwards (Historic England): 2015 Historic Farmsteads: A Manual for Recording
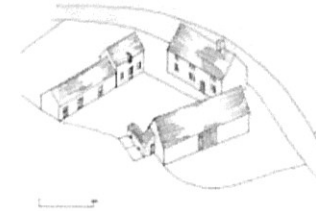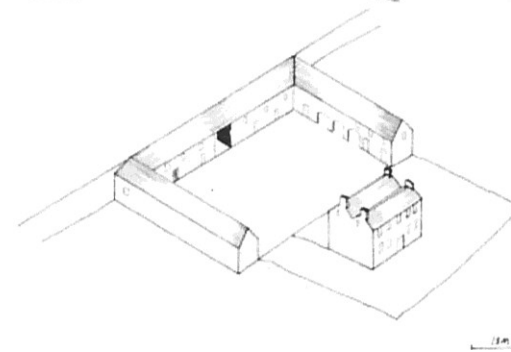
Appendix 1: Reference Plan Types from Jeremy Lake

Loose courtyard - working
buildings to two sides of yard

LC2

Regular
courtyard - L
plan

RCL

Regular E plan
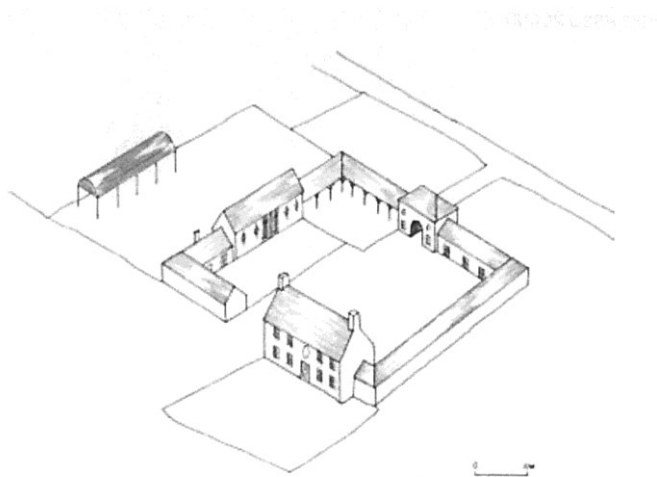
Regular
courtyard - U
plan

Regular Multi-yard

Full Regular Courtyard

RECORDING HISTORIC FARMSTEADS
Pilot Study (Carmarthenshire)

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO.2018/06
EVENT RECORD NO. 111361

January 2018

This report has been prepared by:

Emma Jones

Position: Archaeologist DAT

Signature   . Date:

This report has been checked and approved by

Ken Murphy

on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Trust Director

Signature ...   .   Date: 09.02.2017

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

BUDDSODDWYR MEWN POBL | INVESTORS IN PEOPLE