



**Penpedwast Farm,
Meline
North Pembrokeshire**

Building Recording Survey

Landsker Archaeology

Penpedwast Farm, Meline North Pembrokeshire

Building Recording Survey

1. Introduction

Penpedwast Farm is a relatively undisturbed farmstead in Meline, North Pembrokeshire. The site is in a derelict state, last having been used for human habitation sometime in the 1970's. The current owner has applied for planning permission to renew the farmhouse and cowshed as holiday accommodation. This building recording survey is in support of that application.

The survey was carried out by David Maynard during February 2008. The survey was a Level 2 building survey as set out in the specification for the work *Penpedwast 802s* and is archived as Landsker Archaeology Project number 802. Building and rooms are recorded using a record number shown here in brackets, numbers 1 to 17 were used in the course of the work. The survey of the site was greatly assisted by the use of drawings created by Ian Bartlett, Building Design and Conservation, provided by the owner Mr Tim Ireland.

2. Description

The farmstead lies at National Grid reference SN 1228 3899, at the head of a slope facing south east. To the north, the buildings and land of Penpedwast has always been backed by Pengelli Forest, while to the south and east, the farm faces open farm land looking towards Eglwysrw and the Preseli range. The site lies in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. No designations for the farmhouse or other structures were shown on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park website database at the date of survey.

The site is a compact farmstead comprising the farmhouse (1), the cowshed range (2), a stone building range (3) and a pigsty (4). To the rear of the site is a range of modern (1960's) steel and asbestos roofed farm buildings. The yard at the front of the farm has been levelled to create an area to store silage bales. The underlying shaley rock is not far from the surface and is exposed in several locations.

The buildings are each described with a final section suggesting how the farm may have developed. Dimensions are found in the record index table.

3. Farmhouse (1)

The farmhouse is a traditional welsh rural dwelling with two primary rooms on the ground floor with a pantry and kitchen to the rear. Upstairs, there were two main rooms with space under the sloping roof to the rear. The south east corner of the building lies at SN12266 38973.

External

The building is formed of slate slabs bonded by lime mortar. The south east (lowest) corner is mounted on a large rounded quartz boulder. All the windows have slate cills and timber lintels. There is evidence of external lime rendering. The building is roofed in slate (where it has not collapsed), with some sections of replacement asbestos sheeting in places. To the east is a range of buildings attached to the house (10 and 11), while to the west is a structure that is thought to be a well head (17) and further west a range of stone buildings (3).



Figure 1 Farmhouse (1) from south



Figure 2 Farmhouse (1) west gable



Figure 3 Farmhouse (1) rear of building

Interior

Access could not be taken to the interior of the house due to the dangerous structure, but sufficient detail was seen through broken windows and over the wall at the rear of the house. An additional measured and photographic survey would be advisable once it is safe to enter the structure.

The front door opens onto the sitting room (5). There may have been a wooden partition creating a hall that incorporated a staircase, but there does not appear to be sufficient space for this. In the east gable wall, is the opening for a fireplace (possible a cast iron cooking range), but this appears to have been removed. On the north wall there was an opening into the pantry, possibly this is a full doorway.

The lounge is the principle room of the building (6), with a window to the south and west walls. The west gable wall is largely taken up with the inglenook fireplace with a decayed timber beam. The east partition wall is formed of tongue and grooved pine through which a door opened. There was another doorway in the north wall which led into what is described as a WC (9). There are no details of whether this is the case due to the collapsed roof.



Figure 4 Farmhouse (1) upstairs looking west

The other rooms in the rear, the kitchen (8) and pantry (7), are similarly difficult to see clearly. There is however, an intact slate worktop and basin for the processing of dairy products, with several relative large windows in the rear wall to allow air flow.

Upstairs there are few details as the floor and partitions have collapsed. The main question would be whether the central window opened onto a small box room or whether there were only two rooms to the front of the house. Roof trusses appear to be of roughly dressed pine, but could not be closely examined due to access difficulties.

Interior decoration where it has survived shows lime washed walls, possibly with subsequent painting. The upstairs room to the rear of the house is coated in a traditional red/pink limewash. Elsewhere, the predominant colour, where it survives, is off-white. A few traces of wallpaper can be seen in some of the upstairs rooms.

The only modification to the building during its lifetime appears to be a reduction in size of the window in the west wall opening into the WC (9). This was originally wide enough to have been a doorway, but as this area appears set into the ground, it does not appear likely, unless soil has built up since that time.

To the east, is a barn structure aligned north to south (11). Only the north gable wall and parts of the east and west walls survive. The remaining parts of the structure probably lie under a pile of grassed over rubble to the south, which allows the approximate dimensions of the structure to be estimated. No part of the roof structure survives. The building was a low two storey barn with access gained to upstairs by an external staircase to the north gable end. The structure is built entirely of slate bonded with lime mortar. There are the edges of a door opening on the east

wall and a wider blocked opening on the west wall. This is possibly a wider doorway, or else a section rebuilt after the erection of the farmhouse.



Figure 5 Rear of farmhouse (1) lean-to (10) and barn (11)



Figure 6 Barn (11) interior from the south
Penpedwast Farm
P802 Building Recording

The space between farmhouse and barn were filled by a building created as a lean-to between the two structures (10).

4. Cowshed (2)

This is a long building running north to south along the east of the site. The building has a complicated building sequence with numerous additions, and consequently difficult to fully interpret. The south west corner of the building lies at SN 12280 38993.



Figure 7 Cowshed (2) from west showing barn (15) and cow byre (14)

The earliest structure is the two storey barn to the south (12). This is a roofless shell built of rough slate slabs bonded with lime mortar. The southern gable end of the building is missing so it is not possible to determine the original length of the building. The upper storey was entered through a doorway on the west wall, accessed by an external staircase (now removed). This position is odd, in that it would be easier to have entered via the gable wall on the north, as with the barn attached to the farmhouse. Possibly there was a pre-existing structure to the north of this barn.



Figure 8 Cowshed (2) rooms (12) and (13)

To the east, an additional room was added at a later stage (13). This slate lime mortared structure is now roofless and partly demolished. It originally had a sloping roof draining to the east with a window in the south wall and door to the east. At the time of its construction, it may have abutted the existing cowshed or against some pre-existing structure.



Figure 9 Cowshed (2) junction of (13) and (14)

The main cowshed range has been altered so it is not possible to determine if it was built in two phases or as one complete entity. The cow byre to the south is blocked by a transverse wall, while the barn to the north has a higher floor level (caused by rising external ground level) and a different function. There are also bricks built into the gable wall at the north west corner of the of the cowshed, which appear to have been introduced during repairs.

The cow byre (14) as originally formed, had three doorways opening to the east while the west wall was punctured by a number of ventilator slots and windows. There are five surviving trusses under the corrugated tin roof. Four of these are roughly dressed pine trunks, while the southern one is a sawn softwood truss, possibly a replacement at the time that the roof was clad in corrugated iron.

Subsequent to the original construction of the byre it was modernised by the insertion of concrete flooring and cow stalls (possibly in the 1950's). This allowed 15 cows to be tethered and milked. A concrete block dairy (16) was erected against the east wall and one of the doorways blocked and converted to a window, presumably at the same time.

The northern end of the range houses a barn (15) with a corn silo added later. The west wall contains two doors and two ventilator slots. The east wall appears to have been simpler, with one door, no ventilators, and what may have been a wider, cart sized, doorway, although this has been later heavily modified to allow access to the corn silo.

The north end of the barn contains an upper floor which terminates at the corn silo compartment. This floor may have originally extended further through this structure, although it is difficult to be sure. There are no obvious remaining signs of access points to the upper floor, possibly this was via internal ladders.

The corn silo is a late addition, supplied by James Crymych, a local agricultural machinery dealer, possibly in the 1960's or 70's. The original roof had to be raised to accommodate this equipment and an elevated section of the roof created. The decision to install the silo appears to have been the trigger to replace the existing roof throughout the cowshed range and replace it with the corrugated iron sheeting. All the trusses at this end of the building are sawn softwood and appear contemporary with the corrugated iron roof. Inserting the corn silo would have needed several of the original trusses to be removed, so it is likely all were renewed at this time.



Figure 10 Cowshed (2) North gable of (15) showing repairs

5. Building (3)

To the west of the farmhouse is the remains of stone built range, roofed on the east end, and surviving as walls only at the west end. The east section is roofed and clad in corrugated iron sheeting and timber, but is formed on a stone foundation and west gable wall. This gable wall contains a large inglenook fireplace and evidence of an incorporated bread oven. It is possible that this structure represents part of a domestic structure earlier than the main farmhouse. The west section is formed of two sections with wide doorways to the south, possibly cartsheds. The building is set back into the rising ground behind and the floors are also heavily worn with the walls standing on raised plinths of shaley mudstone. The walls are built of relatively thin pieces of slate with lime mortar and laid in a distinctive style with horizontal coursing not seen elsewhere in the complex.



Figure 11 Building (3) looking north east



Figure 12 Well head (17) and north of Building (3)

6. Building (4)

The pigsty lies south of Building (3) and is to the west of the original farm entrance from the lane running to the south. The sty is a formally constructed building with a roofed sleeping area to the west containing three sties, each fronted by a separate enclosed yard. The whole group is then open into a common yard enclosed by a large wall. The yard is floored with rectangular slate slabs.

The pigsty is built with rough slate, but with a high proportion of sawn slate, in lime mortared courses. The corners are defined by quoins of sawn slate blocks. This is a different style of construction to the other buildings on site. The whole of this building appears to be of an estate style construction and could date to the 1880's.



Figure 13 Pigsty (4) north wall of sties

7. Development of the Site

Although documentary research has not been carried out on this property, it appears that the site has been occupied for some considerable period. There are references to the marriage of Thomas Lloyd of Penpedwast, Pembrokeshire to Anne Owen of Henllys in the mid 18th century (National Library of Wales). Some limited archaeological excavation has taken place south east of the farm which revealed 17th century and latter pottery from hillwash deposits (Mytum and Grundy, 1985). The earliest Ordnance Survey maps available over the internet for 1891 shows a farmstead that includes all the elements described here.

There are two barns (11 and 12) that appear to be the earliest structures on the site. Barn (12) is clearly earlier than the remaining parts of the cowshed range (4) and may then be a focal point to other elements such as (13) and a possible precursor to (14). Barn (11) is earlier than the lean-to structure (10), which required the doorway in the west side to be blocked in with stonework to allow it to be built. This argument

creates the difficulty of using this doorway if the farmhouse (1) was already in existence. So that the farmhouse (1) may not have been present at the earliest period of the farm. The building range (3) is a possible contender for the earliest domestic buildings on the site, especially as there is a large inglenook chimney in the easternmost structure.

If this is correct, then the earliest phase of the site would consist of (3), (11) and (12 and 13), with the cowshed (14 and 15) being added, probably at the same time as the farmhouse (1). The pigsty (4) would have been a fairly late addition.

The mid twentieth century saw the insertion of cow ties and the dairy (16), together with the start of construction of a range of large haysheds to the north of the farmhouse. Later developments were the installation of the corn silo and a new roof on the cowshed together with further haysheds and slurry and muck handling facilities to the north east.

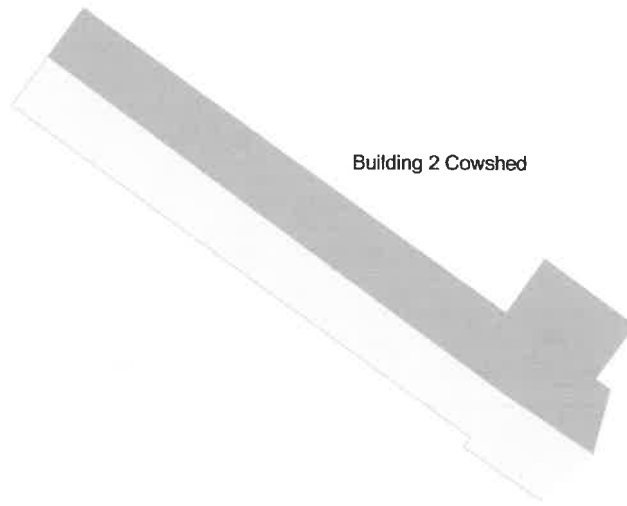
8. Conclusions

9. References

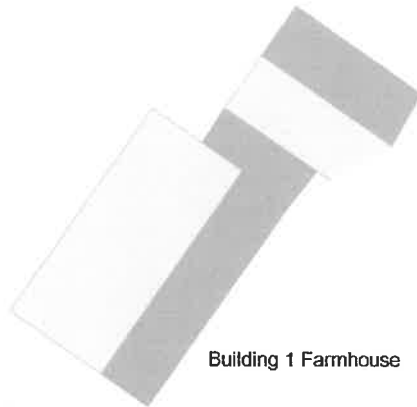
National Library of Wales, Bronwydd Estate Records,
<http://www.archivesnetworkwales.info>.
Mytum, H, and Grundy, H, 1985, Pottery from Penpedwast Farm Meline,
Pembrokeshire, *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* 8.

10. P802 Record Index

No.	Description	Interpretation
1	Building 12.3m by 8.4m external	Farmhouse
2	Building 32.7m by 6.0m external	Cowshed
3	Building (no dims)	Building Range
4	Building (no dims)	Pigsty
5	Room 5.1m by 4.4m Door to south 1.1m wide, 2.0m high Window 0.8m wide, 1.2m high Fireplace on gable wall Opening to 7, 0.9m wide Doorway to 8, 1.7m wide	Part of 1, Sitting room
6	Room 5.7m by 4.4m Inglenook fireplace (no dims) Window to south 0.8m wide, 1.2m high Window to west 0.5m wide, 0.7m high Door to 9	Part of 1, Lounge
7	Room 2.0m by 2.0m Window to east, 0.6m wide, 0.6m high Slate dairy slabs	Part of 1, Pantry
8	Room 6.3m by 2.0m Window to north 1.4m by 0.9m	Part of 1, Kitchen
9	Room 2.4m by 2.0m Window to west 0.7m wide, 1.1m high Door to 6	Part of 1, WC?
10	Room at least 7.3m by 5.0m Door in gable end to north 1.1m wide, 1.9m high Door opening to east Opening, now blocked by wall to west	Barn
11	Room 4.1m by 2.1m Door to north 0.8m wide Door to north 1.1m wide	Lean-to building between 1 and 10
12	Room 5.4m wide, more than 4.1m long, base of floor joists, 1.8m from ground floor Door opening to upstairs on west Door opening to east on ground floor	Part of 2, Barn
13	Room 4.2m by 2.1m Window to south 0.5m wide Door opening to east	Part of 2, Room
14	Room 14.3m, 4.7m wide Three doors to east 1.1m wide Two windows to west Three ventilator slots to west	Part of 2, Cow byre
15	Room 12.2m by 4.7m Two doors to west 1.1m wide Two ventilator slots to west Door to east 1.1m wide Opening to east 2.8m wide	Part of 2, Barn
16	Room 3.0m by 2.9m Door 1.0m wide window	Part of 2, Dairy
17	Slate water trough	Well head



Building 2 Cowshed



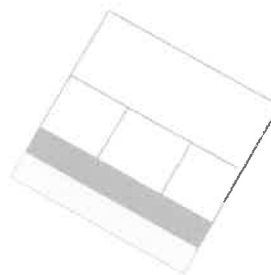
Building 1 Farmhouse



17 Slate Trough



Building 3 Shed



Building 4 Pig Sty

Penpedwast Farm Sketch Plan

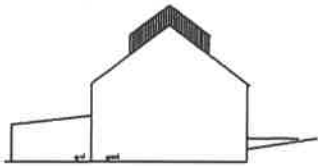
Profile A-A



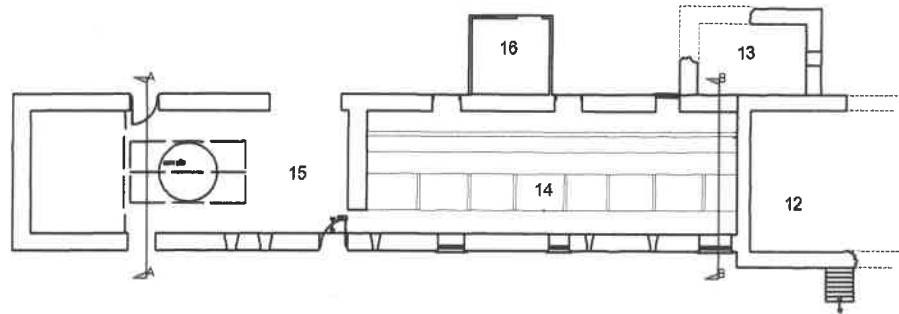
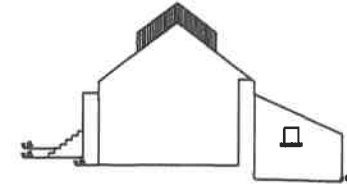
Profile B-B



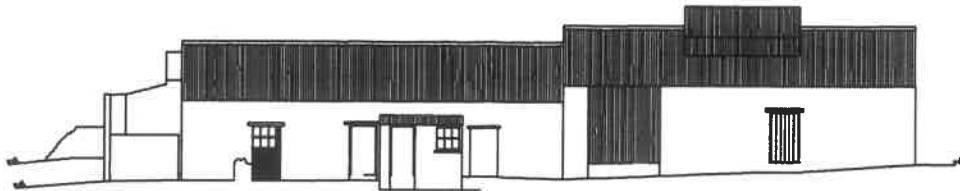
North Gable



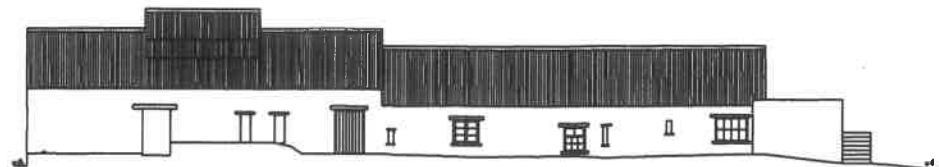
South Gable



East View



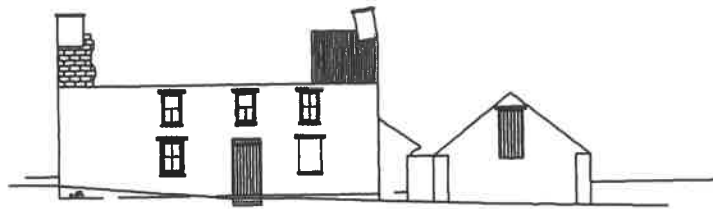
West View



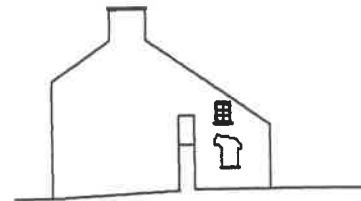
Penpedwast Farm Building 2 Cowshed

0 — 5m

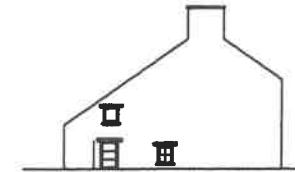
South View



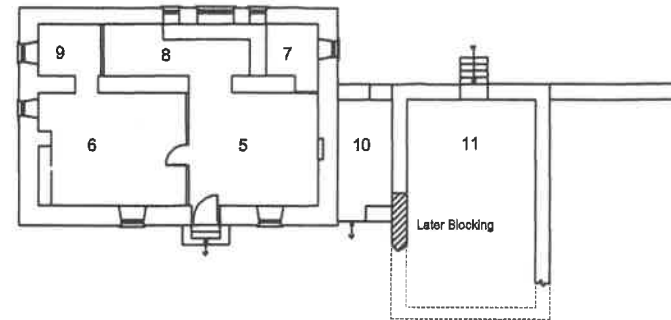
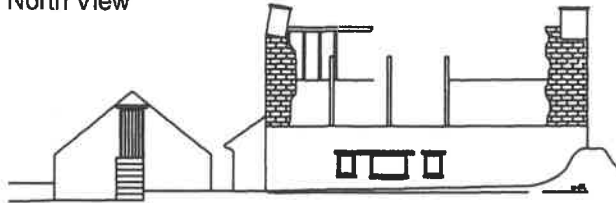
East Gable



West Gable



North View



Penpedwast Farm Building 1 Farmhouse

0 — 5m