

# GLASTIR ADVANCED POST VISIT ASSESSMENT

**DAT REPORT 105816**

**A0026379**

**Site Name: Tynfron, Formerly Royal Oak**

**PRN 105785**

**NGR SN 7534 6800**

## **Introduction and historic background**

The Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) was consulted by the commons development officer Philip Jones on 05/11/2013 regarding a farm building at Tynyfron. Following a proposal to restore the building under GA Restoration of Traditional Farm Buildings option, DAT was asked to undertake a field visit to assess the building and advise on appropriate management.

### Description

The building subject to the GA application is an agricultural building at which was formerly an ale house or calling house known as Royal Oak.

It is a stone-built structure with a later lean-to on the west side and sheet metal and concrete block additions to the east. The roof is corrugated asbestos sheeting. The historic core is a rectangular building with an animal house attached to the south side. The north gable is built into the slope and the upper exposed part has been re-built in concrete block. Internally are the remains of the fireplace and chimney on the south wall. A small window on the west wall is now obscured by the later lean-to on the outside. The animal house to the south side has been modified with the insertion of large double doors on the front (west side) and the removal of the east wall to incorporate into the later 20<sup>th</sup> century shed to the rear. The west wall is faced by vertical hanging corrugated asbestos sheet.

The earliest surviving record of the building is a sale receipt of 1836 showing the purchase of Royal Oak for £12.00.

It is shown on the Tithe Map of 1844 as a small rectangular building with two associated fields described in the apportionment as being pasture. The adjacent property of Tynyfron is shown as a separate holding under different ownership with a house and garden. A map held by the current owner dated 1858 shows that Royal Oak and Tynyfron had been amalgamated into a single holding probably through a conveyance dated 1857. This map omits Royal Oak which suggests that the map was drawn to show the extent of agricultural operations.

During the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Royal Oak lay on one of the main cross border drove routes. Herds were assembled at a gathering fair at Ffair Rhos then driven to Rhayader and then south to Barnet in N London. Further to the east is the site of a shoeing place at Teifi pools. Royal Oak operated as a calling house offering ale to passing traffic including drovers.

By the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1891 Royal Oak is shown and named as Tynyfron and there is no building shown at the site of the former Tynyfron farmhouse suggesting Royal Oak was the main residence.

During the religious revival of 1904 the owner turned to temperance and closed the Royal Oak abandoning it as a dwelling and rebuilt the former Tynyfron farm house which is shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map of 1907. The former Royal Oak was turned it into a farm building

### Statement of Significance

The building survives reasonably well and is a good example of a traditional building of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. However it has added significance because of its former use as a dwelling and Ty Gwal with known associations with the drove route. The building is also unusual in that there are contemporary documents and the known family history which chart the development and changes in the buildings and its use.

As such DAT fully support the proposed restoration works and offer the following management advice.

### Management Issues

The main fabric of the building survives in good condition although there are a number of areas where remedial is required to keep the building water tight and maintain its long term future.

- 1) The roof is currently covered with corrugated sheeting which is flaking and cracking needs replacing in parts. The vertical hanging parts over the animal house are breaking and present a hazard. In places where the wall head beneath needs repair the roof sheets will need to be removed. As the material is likely to continue to deteriorate and patching would look unsightly it is recommended that the whole roof be re-covered. It is recommended that this be done in corrugated metal. This is a traditional building material, which replicates the existing and unlike slate will not require new (stronger) roof timbers.
- 2) The wall head at the edge of the lean-to needs repairing with a suitable lime mortar mix. Replacement roof sheets need to cover the wall head.
- 3) The wall head and corner at the north gable end needs repairing with a suitable lime mortar mix.
- 4) Rainwater goods should be added on the west side.

When undertaking any repairs guidance in Technical Note 680: Traditional Building Restoration needs to be followed.

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