

***Historic Landscape Survey***

***Commissioned by***

***The National Trust***

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***Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.***

***registered in England***

***Nº 2869678***

***Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire***

***Historic Landscape Survey***

***February 2003***

***EAS Client Report 2003/6***

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# Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire - Introduction:

## *1 Introduction:*

*Pwll-caerog is a working farm on the north Pembrokeshire coast owned by the National Trust. Recent survey work has highlighted a number of archaeological features along the northern, coastal limit of the property (Cambria Archaeology 1997) and the property is known for the site of Aber Pwll promontory fort. The archaeological potential of the property as a whole, however, has not been recently assessed.*

*A level three survey (National Trust, 2000, 8) was commissioned by the National Trust in the spring of 2003 in order to inform property management decisions.*

### *1.1 Summary*

*Pwll-caerog as a farm appears to date back to the medieval period. Little is left of the medieval farm and landscape save for a probable mill complex close to Aber Pwll cove. The landscape today is dominated by a post medieval enclosed field system which has clearly been extensively cultivated for many years effectively minimising the potential for archaeological survival.*

*Nevertheless an unimproved coastal strip is dominated by Iron Age promontory forts of considerable stature and complexity.*

*Post Medieval activity is also evident in a series of dams and pools, a number of quarries of various sizes and a lime kiln.*

*Archaeologically sensitive areas are identified as the coastal strip, the stream gullies, the area adjacent to Aber Pwll cove and the area of the farm buildings.*

PRN 47283

*eas*

*Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd*



*Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire*

*Historic Landscape Survey*

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## Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire - Landscape History:

Smith, P. 1988. *Houses of the Welsh Countryside, a Study of Historical Geography*. HMSO London.

### 4.3 Aerial Photographs

National Monuments Record for Wales -  
945013 48-51  
975036 50-52  
975001 51-55  
895021 4

RAF 1945 106G/UK1472 4122-24,  
4273-76. Library no. 371.

### 4.4 Maps

1840 Tithe Map for St Davids A/C 622a  
St David's North. National Library of  
Wales, Aberystwyth.

1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map,  
Pembrokeshire sheets 14.4, 14.8, 15.1,  
15.5. National Library of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

1906 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map,  
Pembrokeshire sheets 14.4, 14.8, 15.1,  
15.5. National Library of Wales,  
Aberystwyth.

2002 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map, North  
Pembrokeshire.

## 5 Landscape History

### 5.1 Early activity

The earliest feature of archaeological significance is the double promontory fort on the cliff top at the northern extent of the property.

This consists of two main elements. The main fort to the west, known as *Caer Aber Pwll*, is a multivalate fort with up to three banks and ditches. A separate area to the

east, is partly enclosed by a single rampart and is known as *Little Aber Pwll*.

The site as a whole is sometimes referred to as *Caerau* and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (AM 107, CADW 1990).

Recent aerial photographs show the site to be a very prominent and complex landscape feature, the multivalate fort probably having several phases of activity (Figure 5).

Comparison of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4) and more modern maps (Figure 6) indicates a relatively recent alteration to the south western sector of the outer most rampart.

Other features of a possible early date highlighted in the desk top study are a series of standing stones marked in the fields to the south of *Pwll-caerog* farm on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 3). An alternative interpretation for these features is that of cattle rubbing stones of a post medieval date.

These are not marked on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map (Figure 4) suggesting they may have been removed in the early 20th century AD.

### 5.2 Medieval Activity

The north Pembrokeshire coast is thought to have at one time been covered with open fields representing a relict medieval landscape (Davies 1973, 521). By AD 1840 the Tithe map shows a well established enclosed field system which remains much the same today. The field names tend to reflect topographical features (Appendix 1).

Medieval origins for the property and in particular for the presence of a water mill site, are suggested by entries in *The Black Book of St David*, an extent of all the lands and rents of the Lord Bishop of St David's thought to date to AD 1326:

"The lord has three water mills, that is the mill outside the town of St David's, the mill at

## Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire - Field Survey:

was located (NT 83621). Whilst roughly in situ the stone was broken into a number of fragments making its identification somewhat tentative. At least two other stones which may have been standing stones were noted close to the edges of fields (Figure 6).

Two fields to the south of the farm contain field clearance cairns (NT 83602 and 83620). It is of interest that these fields are named with reference to the cairns in the AD 1838 Tithe Schedule (Appendix 1, nos. 462 and 454). This suggests that active improvements to the land started prior to this date.

The stream gullies to the west of the property contain a series of dams of Post Medieval date (NT 83603, 83601, 83622, 83623, 83611, 83610). The differences in their construction and the map evidence suggests that these may have been in use at slightly different periods in time from the mid AD 1800's through to the early AD 1900's. The function of the dams is to control water. The reason for doing this is uncertain. One by product is the creation of pools behind the dams. A further post medieval/modern pool is noted within Aber Pwll Hill fort (NT 83615). This was created post AD 1906 by rearrangement of part of the outer rampart and ditch of the monument.

At the southern end of the stream gully, close to the farm, is one feature which is particularly difficult to interpret. This is a large artificial mound (NT 83600). It appears on the AD 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map suggesting an origin prior to that date. This feature may simply represent a tip or large clearance cairn.

The point at which the streams out flow to the sea at Aber Pwll cove provides a concentration of archaeological features. A Lime kiln of two structural phases sits on the high water mark and is currently under threat from coastal erosion (NT 83608). Lime kilns are thought to date back to the early seventeenth century AD in

Pembrokeshire (Bowen 2000, 97). Limestone was probably extracted from a quarry fairly locally and brought in by boat, Aber Pwll cove providing a natural harbour for small craft. Its existence is further evidence of attempts to improve the farm land.

Close by are the scant remains of a rectangular structure, almost certainly the remains of the Medieval mill identified in the historical research (NT 83607). This is further indicated by the presence of a possible leat (NT 83604) working its way alongside the western most stream from a point somewhere near Post Medieval dam (NT 83603) to a point just above the structure suggesting the mill was worked by an overshot wheel. Disruption of the leat by Post Medieval quarry (NT 83605) would confirm a potentially early date for this feature. The upper, southern extent of the route of the leat is currently being disrupted by Badger activity.

Close by and possibly associated with these features is a sub rectangular enclosure, possibly a garden (NT 83609).

Quarrying probably of Post Medieval date occurs at a number of locations throughout the property (NT 83605, 83612, 83613, 83614, 83617, 83618, 83620). This is on the whole a fairly small scale opportunistic activity for building and roofing materials with the exception of Aber Creigwyr Quarry (NT 83613) where a large quarry into the cliff face exploiting a number of different materials would appear to have been accessed by boat.

Aber Pwll and Little Aber Pwll promontory forts form the earliest and most important archaeological remains on the property. Aber Pwll, is a multi valate fort of some complexity. The rampart ditches appear to have been deliberately positioned to extend to natural inlets/gullies on the cliff edge. The area enclosed is small but contains at least seven hut platforms.

*the field in which it is located is brought back into cultivation. More specialised inspection of similar stones discarded against boundaries should be considered.*

*Care should be taken to retain the Post Medieval stone and earth field boundaries.*

*The farming regime should not be changed in any way which may constitute a risk to archaeologically sensitive areas i.e. the coastal strip, the stream beds, the farm buildings and the area adjacent to Aber Pwll cove, without consultation.*

## **8.2 Further Work**

*Caer Aber Pwll (NT 83615) does not appear to have been subject to detailed survey work in the past. Such work would allow a phased sequence of rampart construction to be proposed and promote a fuller understanding of the monument.*

*With regard to the potential Medieval mill complex (NT 83607, 83604) . Whilst currently not under direct threat more detailed research and survey work would be considered appropriate to provide further information to the nature, extent and level of survival of these features.*

*Detailed building survey work of the farm buildings would aid their interpretation.*

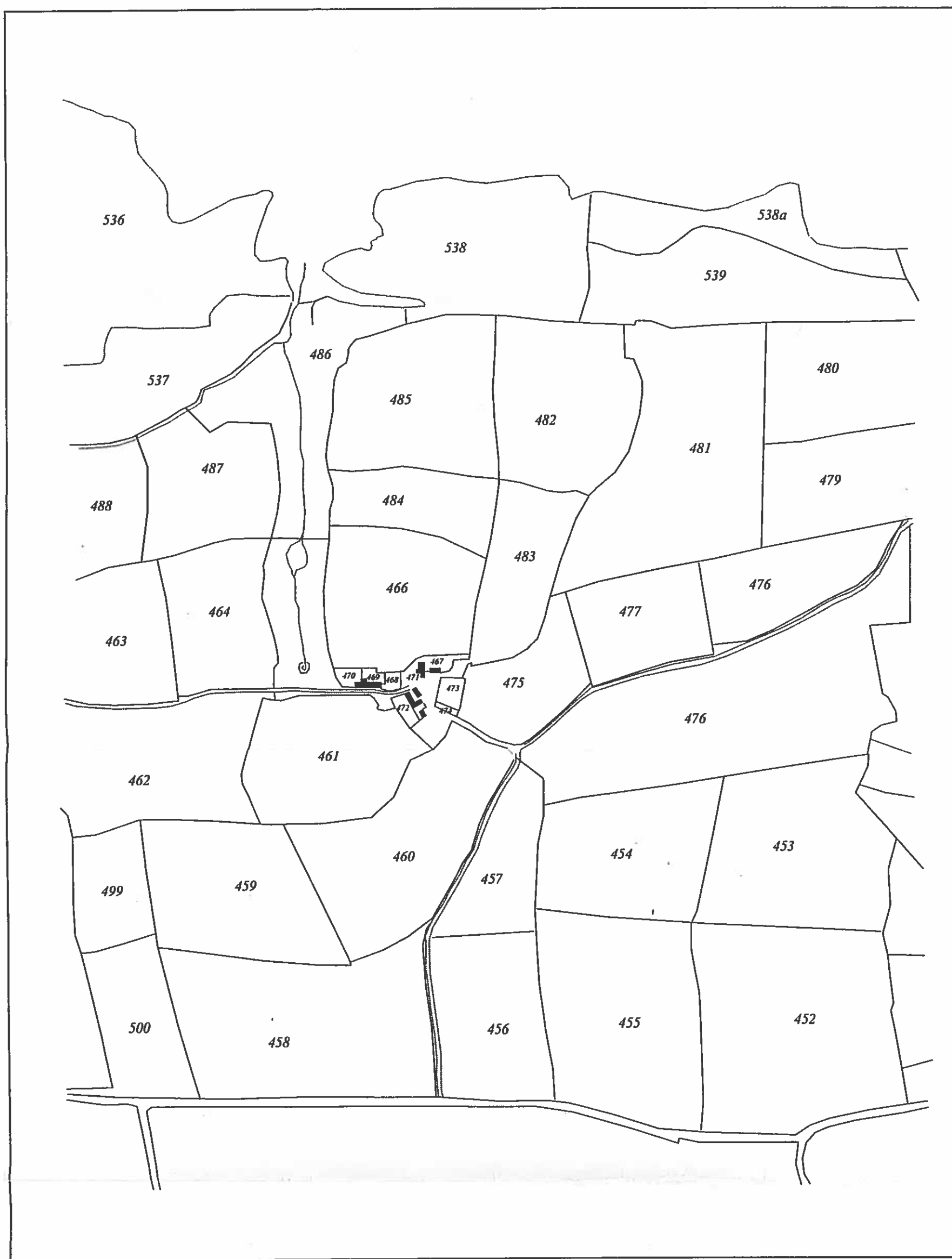


Figure 2 : Tracing of an extract from the AD 1840 Tithe Map for St Davids, not to scale.



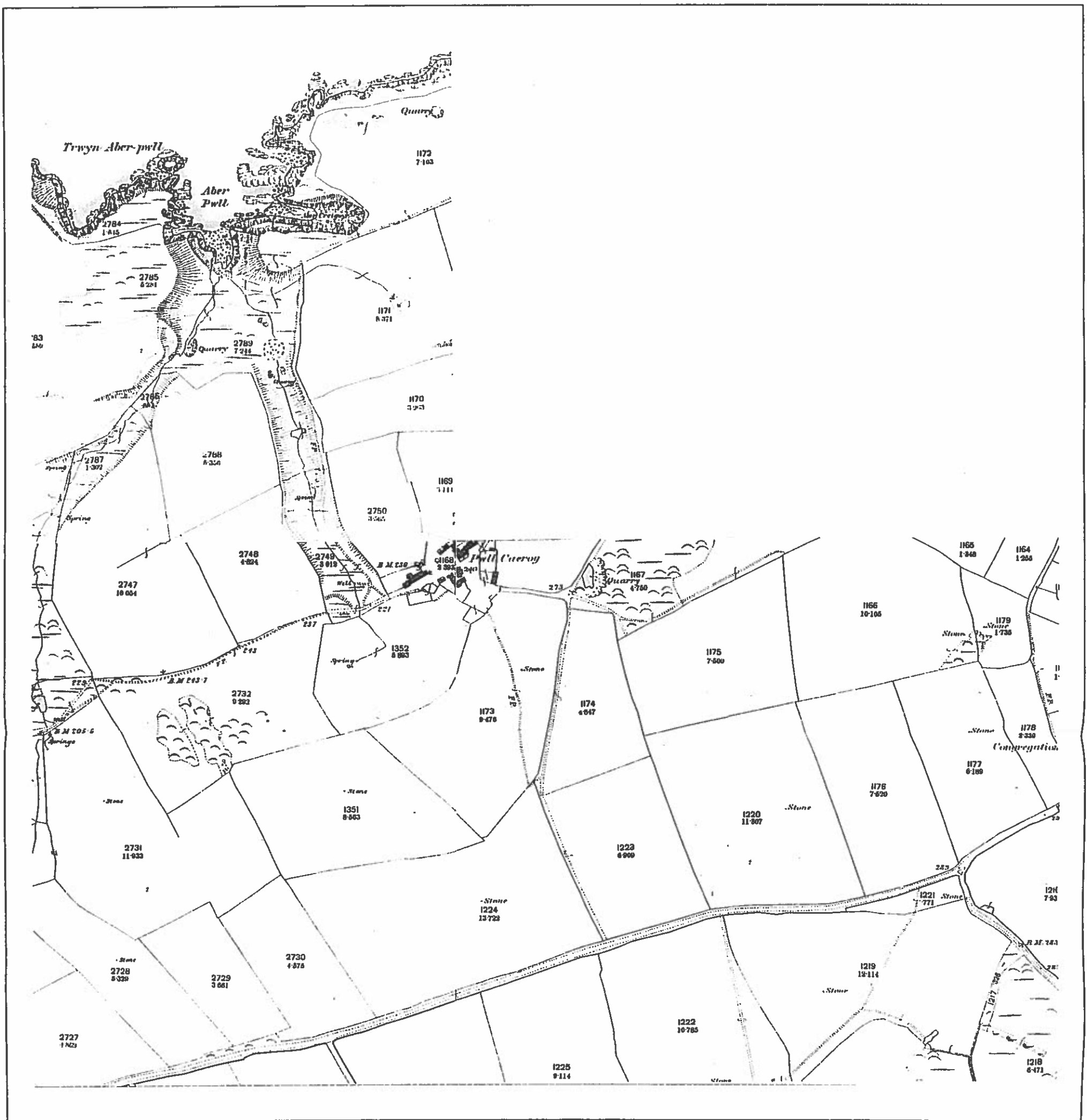


Figure 3 : First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, AD 1887  
 Scale 1:5,000  
 National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

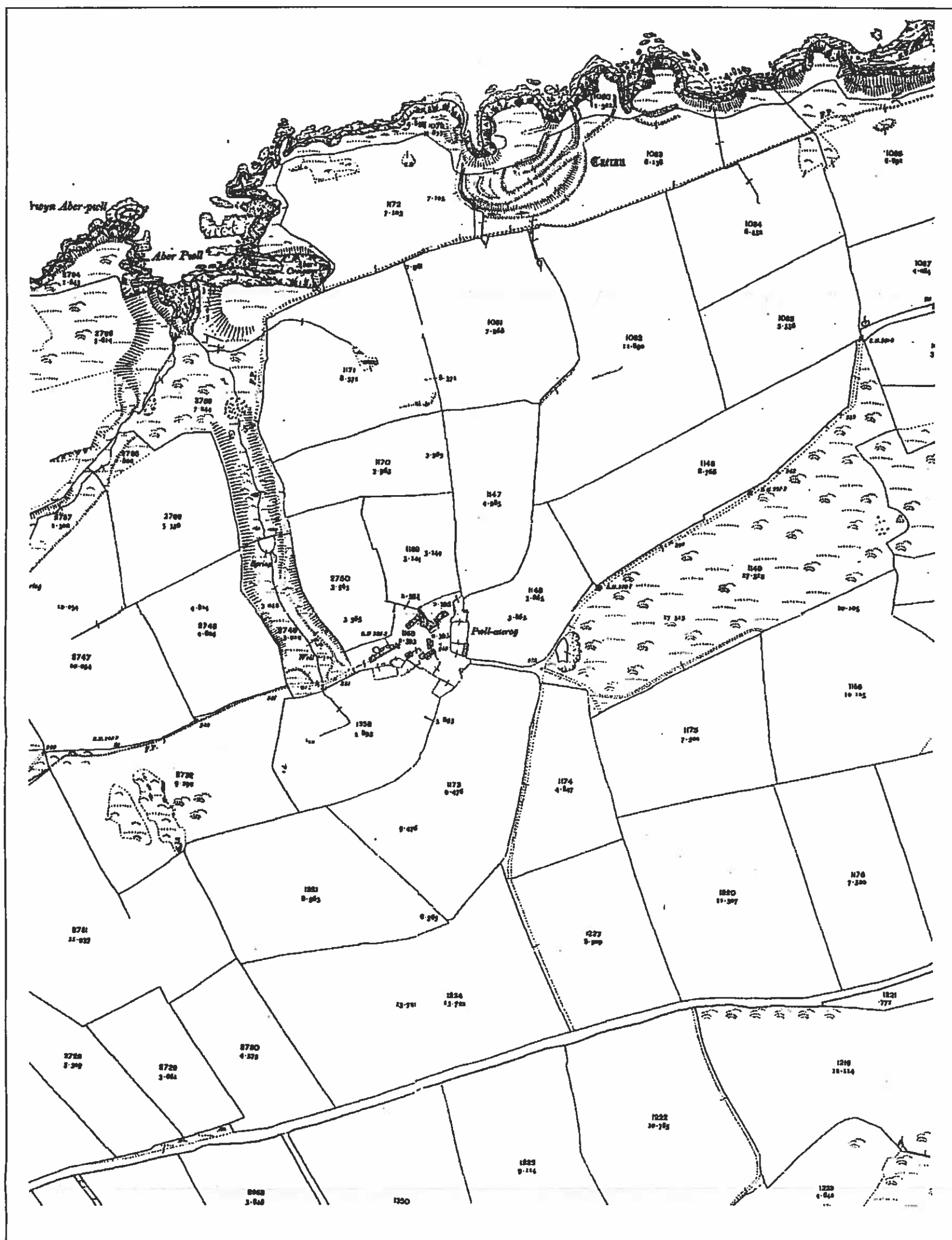


Figure 4: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, AD 1906  
 Scale 1:5,000  
 National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth



Figure 5: Aerial views of Caer Aber Pwll and Little Aber Pwll from the north east (above) and west (below)

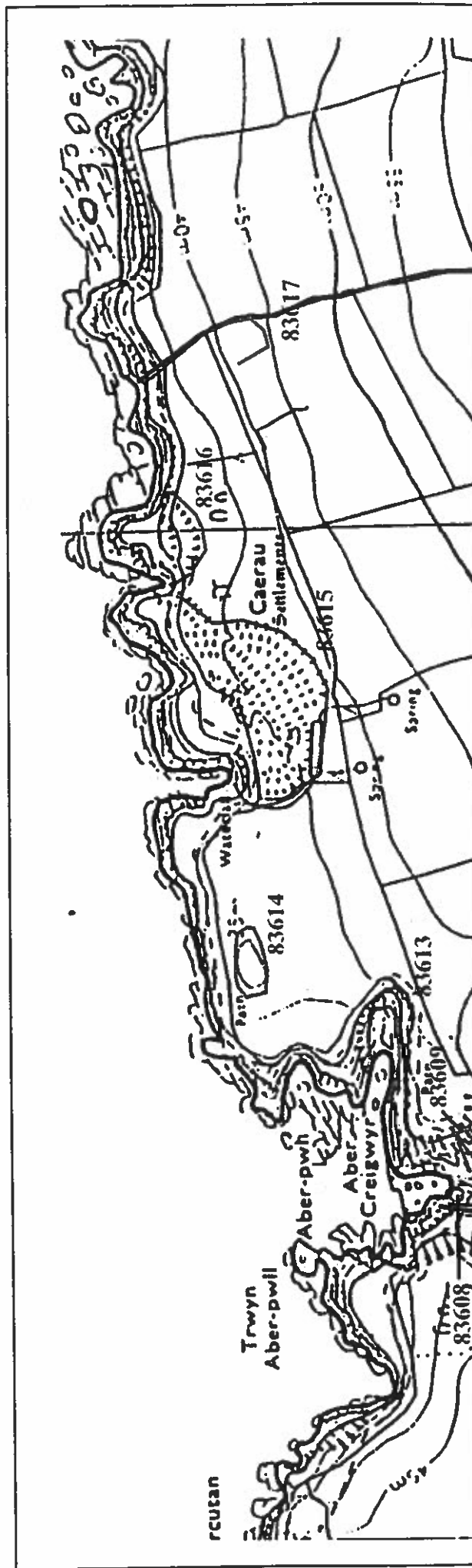


Figure 6: Location of features recorded  
Scale 1: 5,000

Reproduced from 1:10,000 map by permission of the Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. © Crown Copyright . All rights reserved. Licence number AL100014722

Property boundary

Features Located

83600 National Trust record number

□ Possible disgarded standing stone

----- Additional field boundaries recorded on the AD 1840 Tithe map

## Appendix 1

### Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire

#### Summary of Tithe Schedule AD 1838

Landowner	Occupiers	No.	Name	Cultivation
Harries John Hill	Perkin Thomas P Perkin David	451	Piece near road	Pasture
		452	Park y Pella (Furthest field)	Arable
		453	Park y Pante (Field of the hollow)	Pasture
		454	Park y Garn (Field with cairn/heap)	Arable
		455	Park Canol (Middle field)	Pasture
		456	Park Ffordd Issa (Lower road field)	Arable
		457	Park y Ffordd (Road field)	Arable
		458	Park y Manol (? Manor field)	Arable
		459	Park y Bara (Bread field)	Arable
		460	Park drill mawr (Big ?gun field)	Pasture
		461	Gweirglawd uchaf (Higher hollow/bog)	Meadow
		462	Park gam llwydd (Successful cairn field)	Pasture
		463	Park Dyladon uchaf (Dyladons' upper field)	Arable
		464	Park dyn uchaf (Upper meadow)	Arable
		465	Nant (Stream)	Pasture
		466	Gweirglawd dan ty (Hollow below house)	Meadow
		467	Houses and Hay yard	
		468	Garden	
		469	House	
		470		

## Appendix 2

### Pwll-caerog, Pembrokeshire

#### Gazeteer

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 832601

**NGR:** SM 78572 30184

**Site Type:** Dam and pool

**Period:** Post Medieval

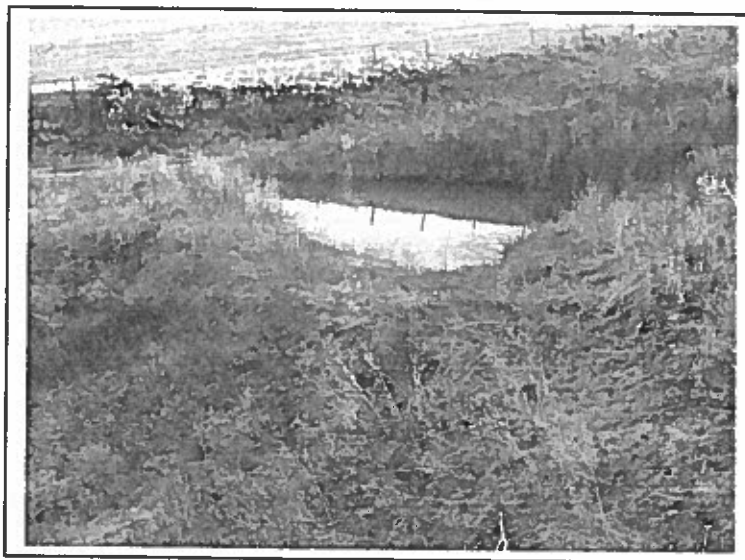
**Landuse:** Unimproved pasture

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



**Description:**

Large flat topped slightly curving earth bank damming the corner of a natural gully. Pond behind measures approx. 15 m across. The bank is 25 m in length, 3 m in width across the top and approximately 5 m in height.

**Comments/Cross Reference**

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 9 Digital: PC 2

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog – Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83603

**NGR:** SM 78278 30350

**Site Type:** Dam and pool

**Period:** Post Medieval

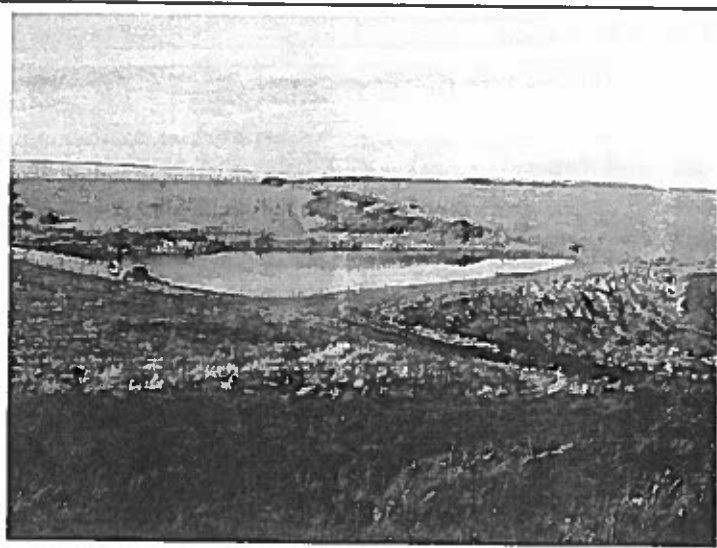
**Landuse:** Improved Pasture

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



**Description:**

A large flat topped earth bank damming a small stream which runs down a natural gully towards the sea. The dam is 45 m long and 5.5 m across. The pool behind measures approx. 40 m across and has a small bank along its southern edge.

**Comments/Cross Reference**

Recently restored.

Other dams and pools seen further upstream outside the property.

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame

Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 11

Digital: PC4

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03



## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83605

**NGR:** SM 78379 30455

**Site Type:** Quarry

**Period:** Post Medieval

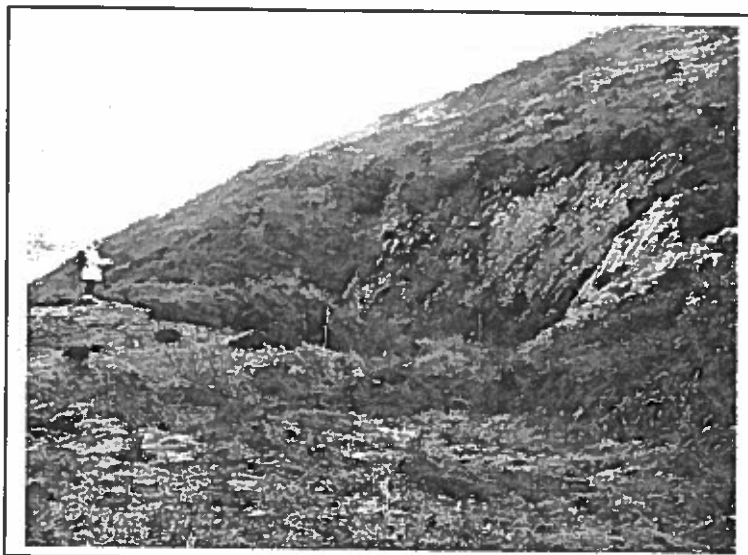
**Landuse:** Scrub

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



### Description:

Small scale quarrying activity for the extraction of rather poor quality slate. A concave scoop into the rock face, 13 m across, 5 to 5.5 m high and extending back 6 m into the rock face. A curving spoil bank, 14 m in length, 6 m across and up to 2 m high is situated in front of the quarry on the edge of the stream. The nature of the spoil suggests that processing (splitting has been taking place) on site close to the stream edge.

### Comments/Cross Reference

**Photograph:** B/W: film

/frame

Colour Slide: film NT1

/frame 13

Digital: PC6

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:** Pwll-caerog Water Mill

**NT Site No:** NT 83607

**NGR:** SM 7430 30520

**Site Type:** Mill Building

**Period:** Medieval

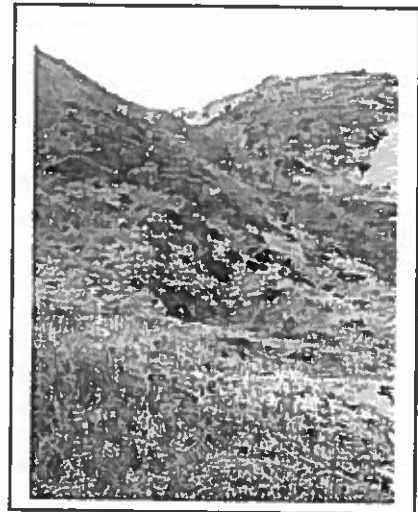
**Landuse:** Scrub

**Condition:** Moderate

**Stability:** Slow Deterioration

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Regional



### Description:

Ruinous structure, only just visible. Possibly two cells surviving with the cell to the east being a possible wheel pit with a ramp above linking the pit to a possible water leat ( NT 83604). The building sits within a sub-rectangular terrace which cuts into the tail of the natural slope. A track/ramp probably for access to sluices and the water leat defines the upper edge of this terrace.

### Comments/Cross Reference:

PRN 12459

Would benefit from more detail survey work to aid interpretation.

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 15,20,21

Digital: PC

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83609

**NGR:** SM 78461 30548

**Site Type:** Enclosure

**Period:** ?Medieval

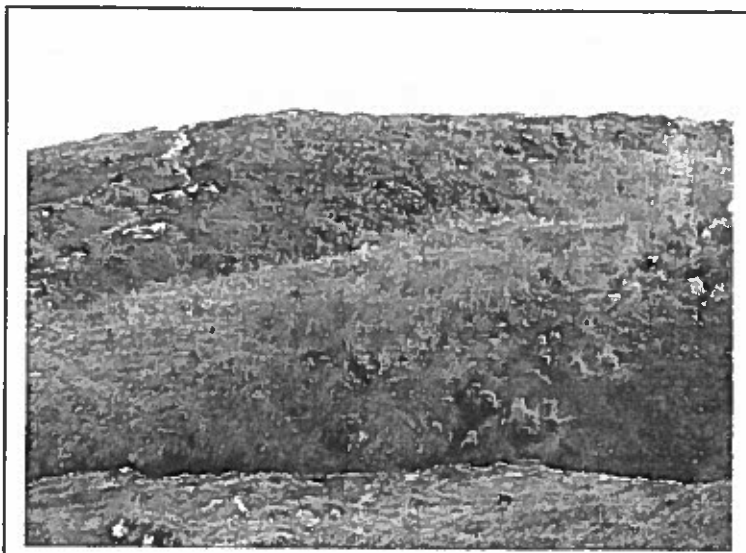
**Landuse:** Scrub

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** High



### Description:

Trapezoidal shaped enclosure defined by banks 2 m wide and 1 m high. The enclosure is 22 m long, 8 m wide at the narrow end and 12 m wide at the wide end. A distinct terrace is noted within the enclosure at the wider (western) end. Possibly a garden plot.

### Comments/Cross Reference

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 22 Digital: PC14

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83611

**NGR:** SM 78478 30511

**Site Type:** Dam

**Period:** Post Medieval

**Landuse:** Scrub

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



### Description:

Large earth and rubble bank with sloping front, damming stream. 10 m in length, at least 2 m across at the top and considerably wider at the base. A pool to the rear (south) of the dam is completely silted up.

### Comments/Cross Reference

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 24,25 Digital: PC 16, 17

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:** Aber Creigwyr Quarry

**NT Site No:** NT 83613

**NGR:** SM 78604 30627

**Site Type:** Quarry

**Period:** Post Medieval

**Landuse:** Cliff edge

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



### Description:

Large quarry in cliff side, possibly accessed from the sea as there does not to be an access point from the land side. Probably exploiting several different types of rock. Deliberate stone revetting is visible in places along the sides of the seaward approach to the quarry.

### Comments/Cross Reference

PRN 32690

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame27,28,2 Digital: PC 19,20,21

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:** Caer Aber Pwll; Caerau

**NT Site No:** NT 83615

**NGR:** SM 78840 30780

**Site Type:** Promontory Fort

**Period:** Iron Age

**Landuse:** Pasture

**Condition:** Moderate

**Stability:** Slow deterioration

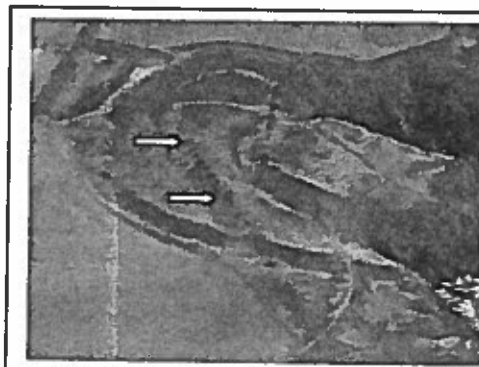
**Vulnerability:** Medium

**Importance:** National



### Description:

A multi-valate promontory fort with a complex multi phased history. The most pronounced inner ramparts are 3-3.5 m high whilst the less pronounced outer rampart is 2-2.5 m high. The area enclosed is small but contains at least seven visible hut platforms. In several places post Medieval walls follow the line of ramparts and cross the ditches in some places acting like dams creating wet areas. In the south west quadrant of the outer defences the rampart has been levelled to partly dam the ditch and the ditch widened to create a fairly large pond.



### Comments/Cross Reference

PRN 2735, SAM AM107

Notable damage to some ramparts from burrowing animals (Badger), most severe on southern side of the middle rampart indicated by white arrows. Coastal erosion would appear to be slow. Measures have been taken to stabilise footpath wear. Aerial photograph © Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 34, 35 Digital: PC 26,27,28

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83617

**NGR:** SM 79157 30746

**Site Type:** Quarry

**Period:** Post Medieval

**Landuse:** Arable

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



**Description:**

Small scale quarrying activity in one corner of a field, approx. 28 x 28 m

**Comments/Cross Reference**

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame Colour Slide: film NT1 /frame 38

Digital: PC 30

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83619

**NGR:** SM 79058 30157

**Site Type:** Clearance cairn

**Period:** ? Post Medieval

**Landuse:** Improved pasture

**Condition:** Good

**Stability:** Stable

**Vulnerability:** Low

**Importance:** Local



**Description:**

Deliberately placed roughly oval shaped pile of stones, 5 m by 7 m by 0.5 m in height.

**Comments/Cross Reference**

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame

Colour Slide: film NT2 /frame

Digital: PC 33

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03



## Pwll-caerog - Gazetteer

**NT Property:** Pwll-caerog

**Parish:** St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

**Name:**

**NT Site No:** NT 83621

**NGR:** SM 79293 29994

**Site Type:** Standing stone

**Period:** Unknown

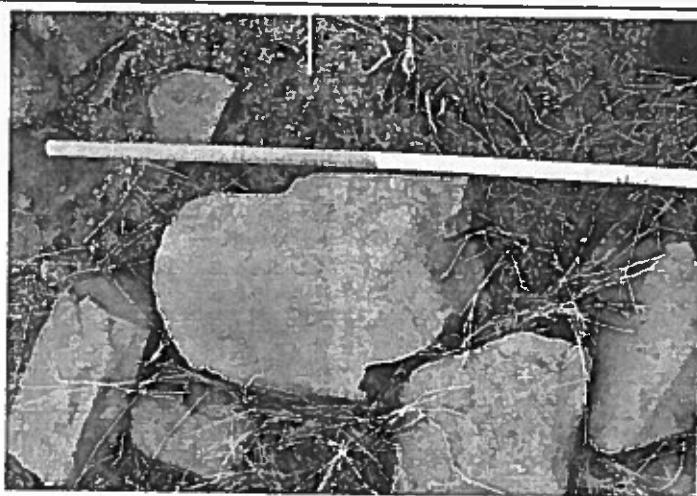
**Landuse:** Set aside

**Condition:** Bad/nearly destroyed

**Stability:** Slow deterioration

**Vulnerability:** High

**Importance:** Local



### Description:

Smashed up orthostat. A number of stone fragments accord with the position of a standing stone marked on the first edition OS map. The tapered sub-triangular cross section of some of the fragments are suggestive of the upper portion of an orthostat.

### Comments/Cross Reference

Likely to be removed in subsequent farming activities.  
Ordnance Survey First Edition map.

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame

Colour Slide: film NT2 /frame

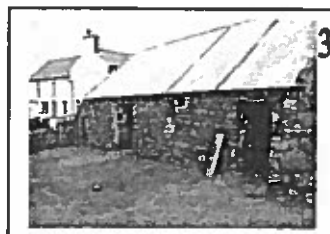
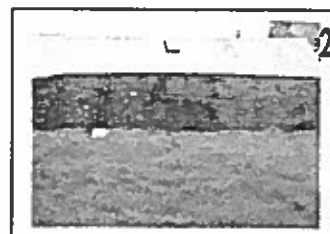
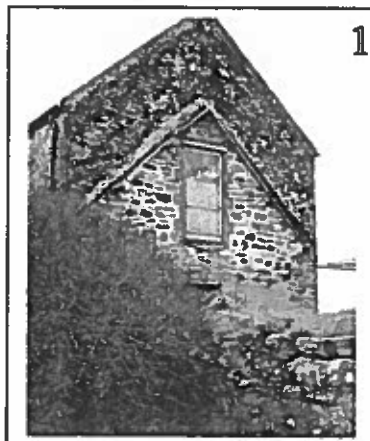
Digital: PC 35,36

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

## Pwll-caerog – Gazetteer

<b>NT Property:</b> Pwll-caerog
<b>Parish:</b> St. Davids, Pembrokeshire
<b>Name:</b> Pwll – caerog Farm
<b>NT Site No:</b> NT 83624
<b>NGR:</b> SM 7870 3025
<b>Site Type:</b> Farmstead
<b>Period:</b> Post Medieval
<b>Landuse:</b> Buildings and yards
<b>Condition:</b> Moderate
<b>Stability:</b> Slow deterioration
<b>Vulnerability:</b> Low
<b>Importance:</b> Local



### Description:

A collection of farm buildings of essentially Post Medieval and modern date. The oldest buildings (shown on Tithe map of AD1840) are as follows: A structure now embedded within the current house which has been much extended and added to (1). A structure to the east of the house, now a bunk house, which has blocked arched doors and a dovecote (2). An old milking parlour to the south west of the house (3). The remnants of structures directly to the south of the milking parlour (4). Other buildings shown on the Tithe map have been superseded with modern barns. Pigsties to the north west of the house appear on the AD1887 Ordnance Survey map and thus must date to between AD1840 and AD1887.

### Comments/Cross Reference

While some of the buildings are maintained, the house, or have undergone recent renovation, the bunk house, others are in need of some maintenance.  
PRN 6883

**Photograph:** B/W: film /frame      Colour Slide: film NT2 /frame      Digital: PC41-55

**Recorded By:** K. Laws

**Date:** 12/02/03

