



**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

REPORT NO. 2019-16  
EVENT RECORD NO. 112156

Cadw record no. DAT 145

March 2019

**HISTORIC FARMSTEAD RECORDING;  
(Carmarthenshire)**

By

**Emma Jones, Ken Murphy**

The copyright of this report is held by Cadw and Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

The maps are based on Ordnance Survey mapping provided by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License No.: 100017916 (2014).



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Ty Cornel, Stryd 6 Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AE  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ebo: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk)

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited*  
*The Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,*  
*Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE*  
*Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121*  
*Heritage Management Section 01558 823131*  
*Email: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)*  
*Website: [www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)*

**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Summary
1	Introduction
2	Methodology
3	Results
4	Problems encountered and recommendations for future work
5	Conclusions
6	Acknowledgements
7	Sources
Appendix 1	Reference Plan Types

ERN 112156 Recording Historic Farmsteads (Carmarthenshire)  
**HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING;**

**Recording Project Study (Carmarthenshire)**

**CRYNODEB**

*Dyma brosiect a ariennir gan Cadw. Mae'n ffurfio rhan o brosiect Dyfed gyfan i gofnodi ffermydd a fydd yn cael ei orffen erbyn mis Mawrth 2021.*

*Mae'r prosiect hwn yn ddilyniant o'r prosiect peilot a gynhaliwyd yn 2017-18. Adnabuwyd, disgrifiwyd ac aseswyd cyflwr y ffermydd yn Sir Gaerfyrddin na chofnodwyd yn ystod y prosiect peilot.*

*Roedd methodoleg y prosiect yn seiliedig ar yr un a ddefnyddiwyd gan Gofnodion Amgylchedd Hanesyddol yn Lloegr a'i addasu wedi hynny gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys, gyda rhagor o addasiadau yn cael eu gwneud ar gyfer y cam hwn o'r prosiect. Ni ragwelir y bydd rhaid gwneud addasiadau pellach i gofnodi ffermydd yn Sir Benfro a Sir Gaerfyrddin dros y ddwy flynedd nesaf.*

*Roedd y prosiect hwn yn ymarfer cofnodi cyflym, desg a ddefnyddiai mapio GIS Arolwg Ordnans hanesyddol a modern ar y cyd â lluniau o'r awyr. Dros gyfnod y prosiect cyfan 2017-19, adnabuwyd, disgrifiwyd ac aseswyd cyflwr oddeutu 5300 o ffermydd (oddeutu 4700 yn y cam hwn). Rhagwelir y bydd ffermydd ar hyd a lled Dyfed (oddeutu 12000) wedi cael eu hadnabod gan ddefnyddio'r dull hwn erbyn mis Mawrth 2021.*

*Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn cynnwys disgrifiad o'r dull a ddefnyddiwyd, crynodeb byr o'r canlyniadau ac argymhellion ar gyfer gwaith pellach.*

**SUMMARY**

*This is a Cadw-funded project. It forms a part of a Dyfed-wide project to record farmsteads which will be completed by March 2021.*

*This project follows-on from the pilot project undertaken in 2017-18 (DAT ERN 111361). Carmarthenshire farmsteads not recorded during the pilot phase were identified, characterised and condition was appraised.*

*The project methodology was based upon the one used by HERs in England and subsequently adapted by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, with further refinements implemented for this phase. It is not anticipated that additional refinements will be required to record farmsteads in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion over the next two years.*

*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 complete project 2017-19, c. 5300 (c.4700 in this phase) farmsteads were identified, characterised and an appraisal of their survival was made. It is anticipated that by March 2021 farmsteads across the whole of Dyfed (c.12000 farmsteads) will have been identified following this methodological approach.*

*This report comprises a description of the approach taken, a brief summary of the results and recommendations for further work.*

---

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This was a project to identify and characterise historic farmsteads across Carmarthenshire; it was funded by Cadw and undertaken by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. The project excludes the study areas covered during the pilot phase undertaken during 2017-18 (DAT ERN 111361).

The project was undertaken to compile a rapid appraisal plan-form of survival of historic farmsteads. The project was GIS (MapInfo) and HER based. A polygon was created for each farmstead and the DAT Historic Environment Record (DAT HER) was updated to include plan-type and condition information to new or existing records.

The project was undertaken over 95 days between May 2018 – March 2019, of which 90 days were spent identifying and recording farmsteads. Over this period 4749 records were either created or enhanced across 586 historic map tiles. The polygon data is held within MapInfo; the classification and condition information is held with the HER. The data from MapInfo and the HER are cross-referenced by DAT PRN.

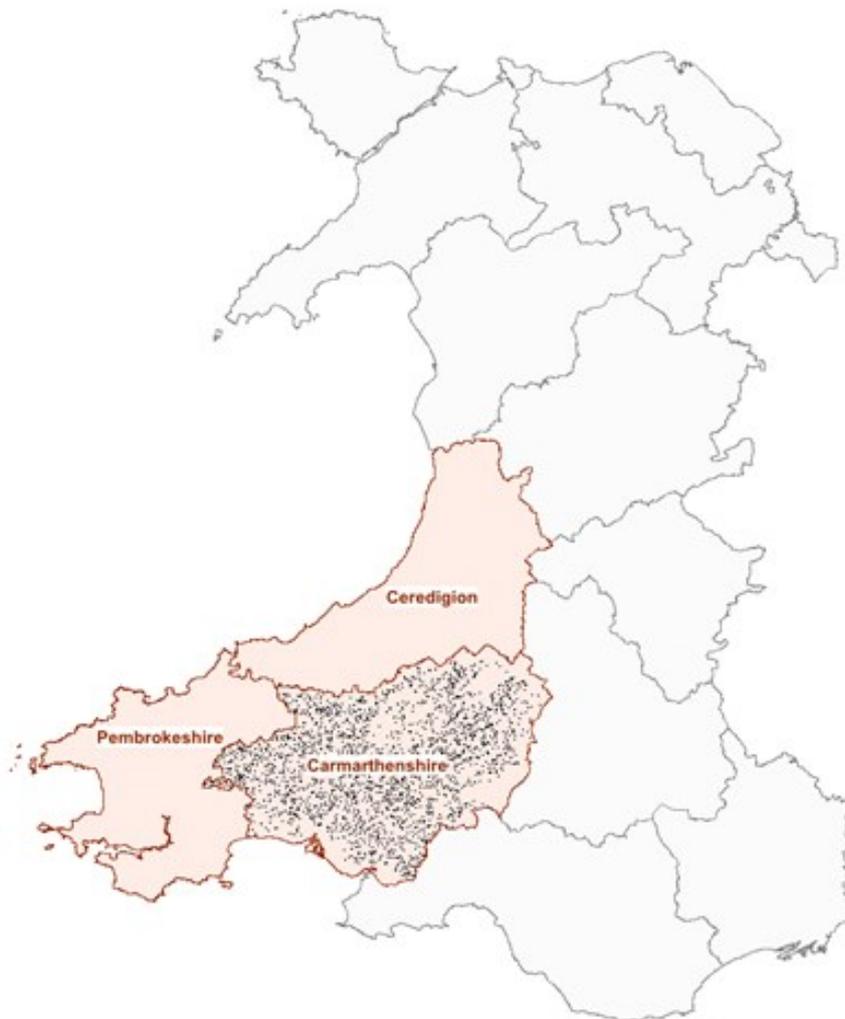


Figure 1: Location of the study area in relation to Dyfed (brown-shaded), and Wales (grey-shaded)

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The detailed methodology, upon which this project is based, was developed by Historic England (HE) in 2009 to ensure consistency of recording historic farmsteads across the West Midlands (Lake and Edwards, 2015). This methodology was refined during the Pilot Project phase, the results of which were described in the report for 2017-2018 (DAT Project 2018/06: ERN ref 111361) (Jones and Murphy 2018).

The area of study was Carmarthenshire excluding areas covered during the pilot study (see Figure 1), some areas of the county have not been covered at this stage, it is estimated that this figure represents <8% of the total number of farmsteads<sup>1</sup>. By March 2021 all sites across the Dyfed region will have been characterized which will also include sites in Carmarthenshire that have not been examined for any other reason, such as lack of digitized 1:2500 2<sup>nd</sup> OS coverage.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map was used as a base map. The 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 digital mapping, the 2004 "Next Perspectives" vertical aerial photography GIS layer was used to assess survival of the historic farmstead. Google Streetview™ was used to appraise the condition of surviving elements of farmsteads where possible.

2. The DAT PRN is the sole data held in the MapInfo table. Associated classification and condition data are held in the DAT HER.

The polygons have been drawn to indicate the shape and relative size of the historic farmstead they encompass the farm buildings; the polygons do not accurately 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 project.

Farmsteads were included if they were identified by a site name on the historic map and had an identifiable agricultural/subsistence element. 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); although these were included in the Pilot Project it was decided appropriate to exclude these in subsequent projects.

Farmsteads within the core of historic nucleated settlements were excluded 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, see Appedix 1 for plan-form types as defined by Historic England. The historic mapping was then viewed against the current mapping and aerial photography to assess how much of the historic farmstead survives. Google Streetview™ was used where possible to rate the condition of surviving farmstead elements, see Figure 2.

---

<sup>1</sup> The parts of Carmarthenshire falling on maps tiles bordering Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and Glamorgan (??) were not comprehensively covered at this stage. Sites bordering other administrative areas, and for those, for which the digitised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps are yet to be acquired, will be included in later stages.

---

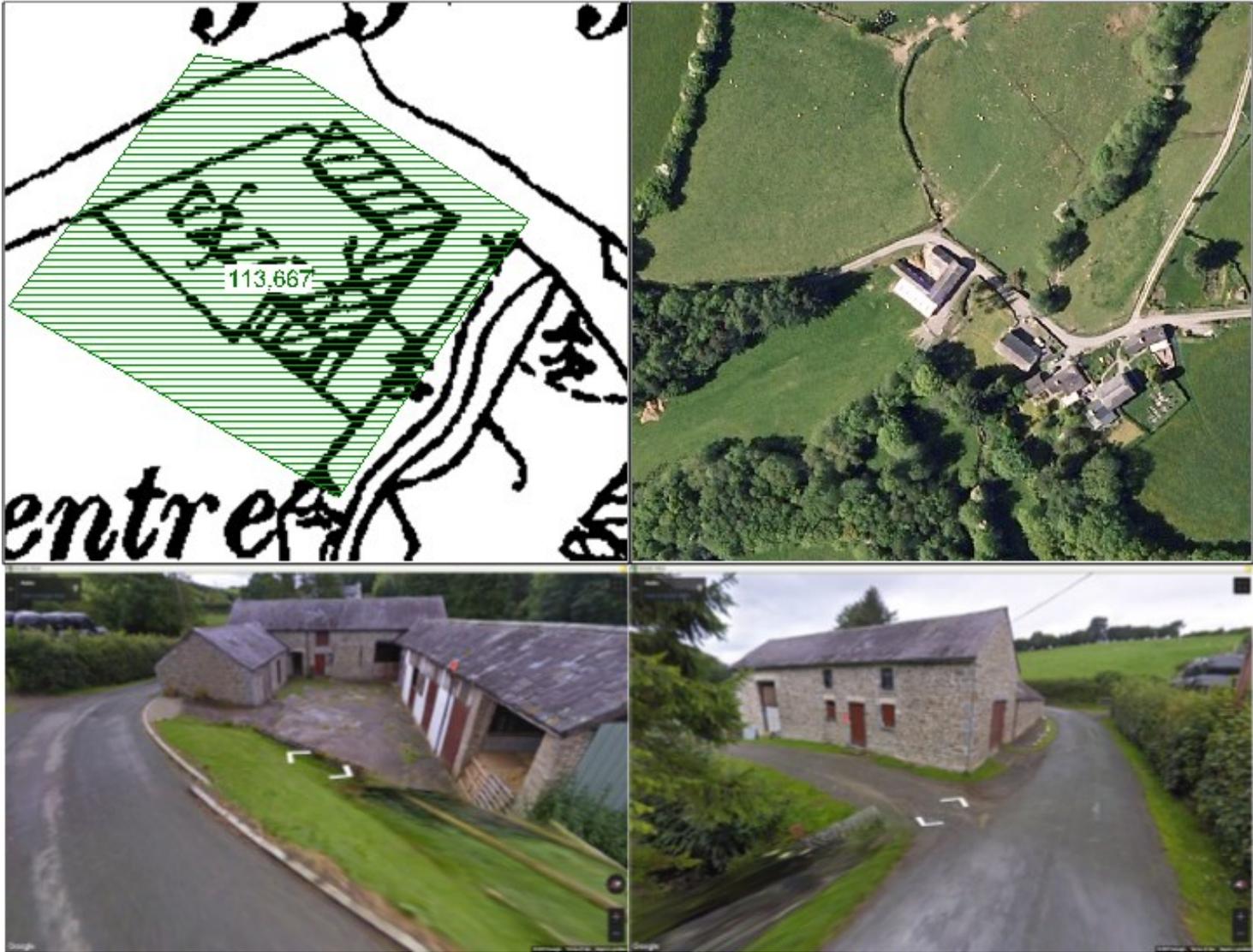
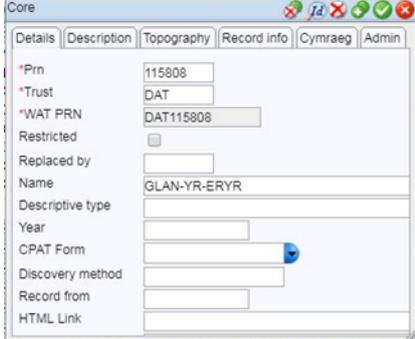
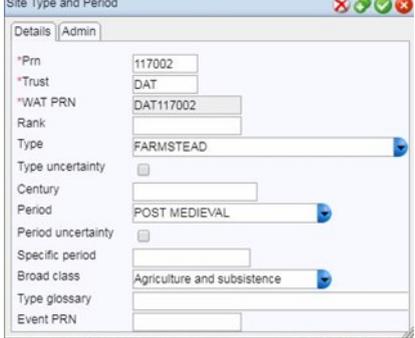
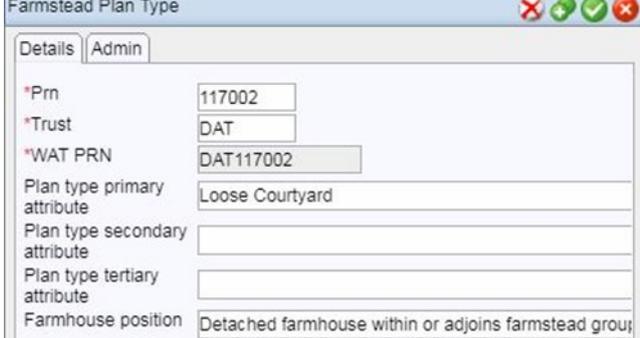
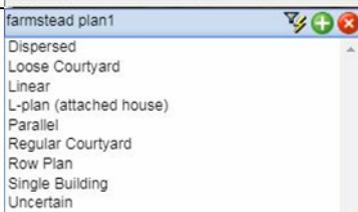
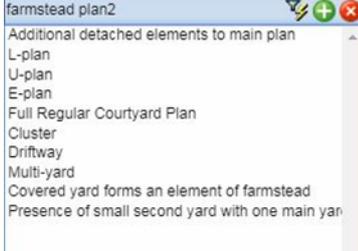
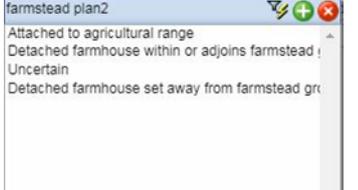


Figure 2

DAT PRN 113667 Farmstead of Pentre. Historic OS 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed map showing a U-shaped regular courtyard farmstead with detached farmhouse. The modern vertical aerial and land-based photography indicating complete survival of plan-form in very good condition.

ERN 112156 Recording Historic Farmsteads (Carmarthenshire)

Data was compiled broadly-based on the Historic England methodology, amended to comply with the Welsh HER's recording system. Table 1 shows **Core Fields** compiled for each farmstead, Tables 2 and 3 show **Condition** and **Rating** data recorded for each farmstead.

HER table	Descriptions
	<p>Unique identifier and Site Name</p>
	<p>Site type and period: the same for all sites within this study</p>
	<p>Top level farmstead character, includes plan-form, location of farmhouse and states if modern structures are present on, or adjacent to the historic farmstead.</p>
	<p>Top level plan-form attribute pick-list</p>
	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level plan-form attribute pick-list</p>
	<p>Farmhouse location attribute pick-list</p>

farmstead plan2 Large modern sheds on site of historic farmstead Large modern sheds to side of historic farmstead	Presence of barn attribute pick-list
---	--------------------------------------

Table 1

Refinements were made to the pilot study methodology to allow for data entry directly into the HER, changes were with regard to terminology used to describe **Condition** and **Survival** attributes. This has not changed the effectiveness of the study and will allow for comparisons to be made with other post medieval complexes such as quarries/mines, mills and military sites.

Attribute	Pilot Project and Historic England	DAT HER recoding format used 2018-19
<b>Survival</b> (Pilot Project)  <b>Condition</b> (Welsh HER, 2018-19 Project)	EXT ALT ALTS DEM HOUS LOST	CONVERTED DAMAGED DESTROYED EXCAVATED INTACT MOVED NEAR DESTROYED NEAR INTACT NOT APPLICABLE NOT KNOWN RESTORED WRECKAGE

Table 2

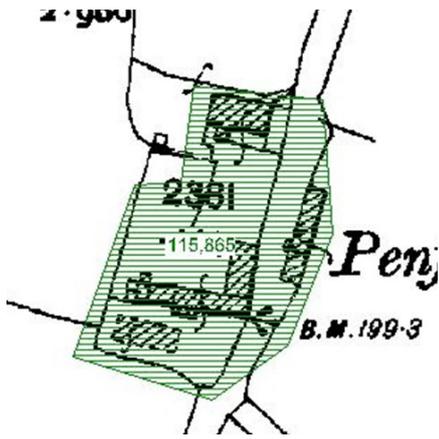
To further describe farmstead survival the **Year** and **Rating** attributes were used the HER Condition and Evidence table, (Table 3):

Attribute	
<b>Year</b>	2018 or 2019 as appropriate
<b>Rating</b>	DESTROYED FAIR GOOD NOT RECORDED POOR UNCERTAIN VERY BAD VERY GOOD

Table 3

Using a combination of Condition and Rating it is possible to create more sophisticated description of survival. Thus enabling a farmstead to have a "Damaged" plan in relation to % of buildings surviving but "Good" survival in those elements that remain, see Figure 3.

ERN 112156 Recording Historic Farmsteads (Carmarthenshire)



Farmstead Plan Type	
Details	Admin
*Prn	115865
*Trust	DAT
*WAT PRN	DAT115865
Plan type primary attribute	Regular Courtyard
Plan type secondary attribute	L-plan
Plan type tertiary attribute	Additional detached elements to main plan
Farmhouse position	Detached farmhouse set away from farmstead group
Sheds	
Hectares	0

Condition and Evidence		
Details	Description	Admin
*Prn		115865
*Trust		DAT
*WAT PRN		DAT115865
Restricted		<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence		COMPLEX
Condition		DAMAGED
Record By		
Organisation		
Year		2019
Rating		GOOD
Event PRN		
GAT Bib ref		

Figure 3

DAT PRN 115865, showing a regular L-plan farmstead with detached elements. It's condition is described as damaged because the additional detached elements are either missing or subsumed within newer structures. However, the L-Plan range of buildings retain original features and as surviving elements warrant "Good" rating.

**3 RESULTS**

A total of c.5300 (pilot and full project) farmstead polygons were created. It was not within the scope of this project to analyse the results of the project but Figure 4 and Tables 2-3 Give an indication of the spread of plan types, assessment of condition and the overall distribution of sites.

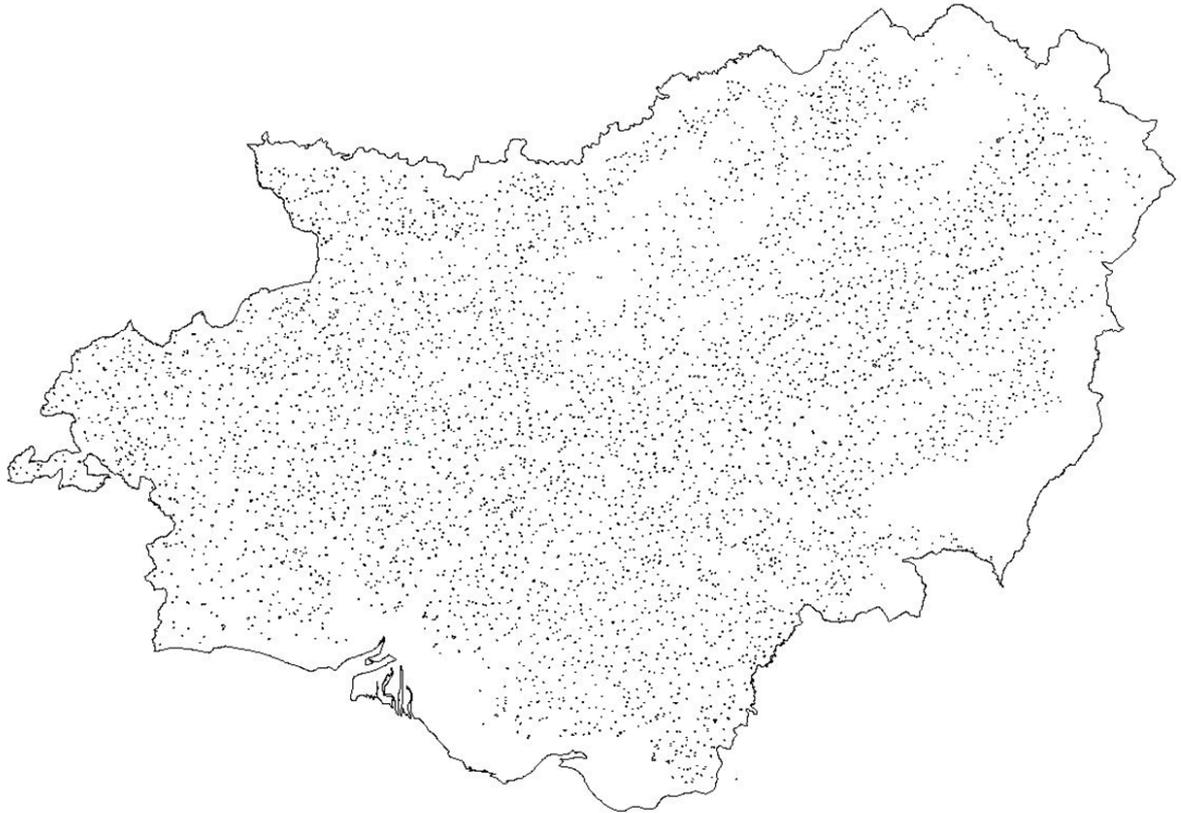


Figure 4  
Distribution of sites in Carmarthenshire (recording during pilot and full project phase 2017-2019)

<b>Plan Type – Primary Attribute</b>	<b>Number of Farmsteads / % Recorded (2017-2019)</b>
DISP (dispersed)	923 / 18%
LC (loose courtyard)	1778 / 36.5%
LIN (linear)	646 / 13.2 %
PAR (parallel)	143 / 3%
RC (regular courtyard)	531 / 11%
ROW (row)	232 / 5%
ALL OTHERS, INC UNCERTAIN	642 / 13.3 %
IDENTIFIED NOT CLASSIFIED YET	c.400 (excluded from calculations)

Table 4: % Number of each Primary Site Type identified (pilot and full recording project)

ERN 112156 Recording Historic Farmsteads (Carmarthenshire)

<b>Survival</b>	<b>Number of Farmsteads / % Recorded (2018-19)</b>
CONVERTED	257 / 6%
DAMAGED	2157 / 49%
DESTROYED	81 / <1%
NEAR DESTROYED	509 / 12%
INTACT	330 / 7%
NEAR INTACT	799 / 18%
UNCERTAIN/OTHER	C 300 / 7%
IDENTIFIED NOT ASSESSED	C.250 (excluded from calculations)

Table 5: Survival of recorded farmsteads  
(2018-19 project only)

#### **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 can be mitigated providing end-users made aware of the rapid data acquisition at the point of use.

The discrepancies in the projections of the modern Ordnance Survey data over the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 tight timescale meant that some areas within Carmarthenshire were not fully covered, these will be completed in due course. It is estimated that these will add no more than 500 sites to the study:

- c.230 sites have been identified with polygons created; for these, the plan-form and condition is yet to be established.
- For a very small area, c 5 historic map tiles, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition digital mapping was not available.
- In some instances Historic OS map tiles that border adjacent counties are yet to be studied. These will be incorporated in years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Within the timescale for the project it was not possible to conduct site visits. It is not possible to undertake a series of visits with a view to "ground-truth" the data whereby the number of visits would be statistically relevant.

The use of Google Streetview™ is a better method of looking at survival assuming a site is available through Streetview™. It would be useful, in due course to visit a series of representative sites where interesting features or where condition is especially good, but this falls outside the scope of this project.

#### **5 CONCLUSIONS**

In principle, the methodology straightforward and effective as 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. Incorporating classification and condition data in the HER during the project, rather than through secondary validation is an appropriate way to continue in recording farmsteads in Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion.

It is expected that the characterisation and condition study will be useful as a tool to undertake further work to inform strategic planning within local planning authorities, government departments and environmental agencies. The information will be used by DAT planning archaeologists to inform decisions on a daily basis.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The digitisation, analysis and reporting was undertaken by Emma Jones with guidance from Ken Murphy.

## **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

Jones E and Murphy K (DAT): 2018 HISTORIC FARMSTEAD RECORDING: Recording Project Pilot Study (Carmarthenshire), DAT Report No 2018/06

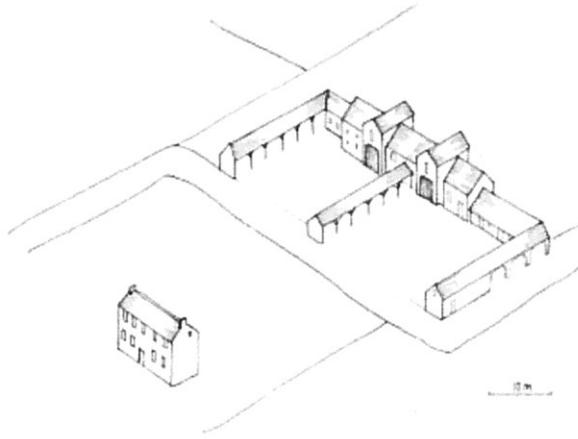
Next Perspectives: 2004 High Resolution Aerial Photography

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

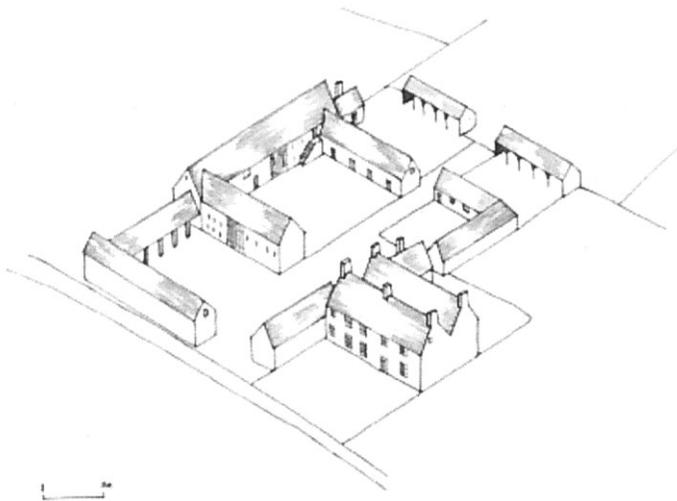
Ordnance Survey: 2013 Mastermap, 1:2500

Lake and Edwards (Historic England): 2015 Historic Farmsteads: A Manual for Recording

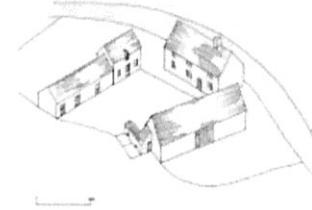
**Appendix 1:** Reference Plan Types from Jeremy Lake



Regular E plan



Regular Multi-yard



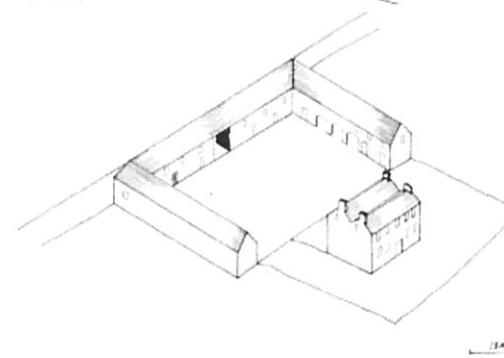
Loose courtyard - working buildings to two sides of yard

LC2

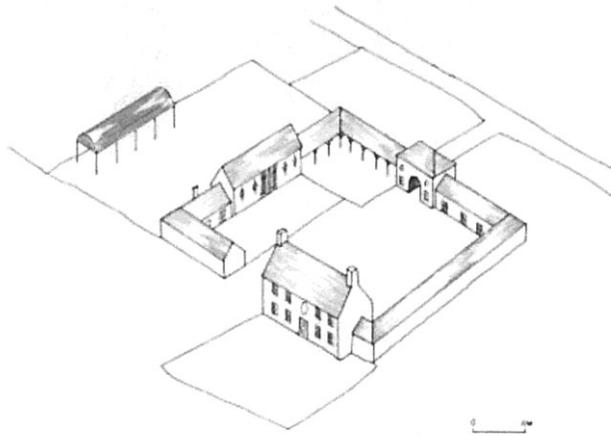


Regular courtyard - L plan

RCL



Regular courtyard - U plan



Full Regular Courtyard

# RECORDING HISTORIC FARMSTEADS Project Study (Carmarthenshire)

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO.  
EVENT RECORD NO.  
March 2019

This report has been prepared by:

**Emma Jones**

Position: Archaeologist DAT

Signature  Date: 29.03.2019

This report has been checked and approved by

**Ken Murphy**

on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Trust Director

Signature ...  ..... Date: 29.03.2019

*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*



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol  
**DYFED**  
archaeological trust