

# Historic Environment Feature Management Report:

## Whetstone Hill, WWII Gun Battery Buildings

Customer Reference Number: A0028520

UID: 304,019 & 304,020



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This management plan has been produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management to inform the positive management of the identified Priority Historic Environment Feature. The identified management outcome will meet the objective for the Historic Environment Feature Targeted Layer as part of the Glastir Land Management Scheme.

This HEF includes two UIDs separated by the B4319 road.

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**PRN 55454 Name** Whetstone Hill  
**Period** Modern **Site Type** world war 2 defence  
**NGR** SM88400073

#### **Site Description (UID 304,020)**

The site includes a series of concrete bases and hard standings for ancillary and support structures associated with the Scheduled Whetstone Hill WWII Anti-Aircraft battery (SAM Pe 494; PRN 14355). The features are identifiable on recent aerial photographs (Next Perspectives 2009). There are 14 individual concrete slabs visible on the aerial photograph although a survey in 1993 identified some 35 as part of the wider complex not all which may lie within the two UID polygons. The structures on the concrete bases would have included technical buildings such as a generator house, workshop, stores as well as for domestic support such as accommodation barracks, wash rooms, latrines, mess area, canteen and sick bay. These structures would mostly have been Nissen hut style in timber and corrugated metal. Whilst the bulk of these have long since gone some evidence of their form and materials may still survive such as metal hold fasts set in the concrete and brick footings for internal divisions. Other associated remains are known to survive at similar sites such as paths and tracks, metal stanchions and spikes to support perimeter fencing and earthwork remains of ground defences such as machine gun nests and mortar pits (H Pritchard, 2013).

The aerial photographs show the site is mostly under rough vegetation with some areas of vehicular erosion. Some of the concrete bases are overgrown.

**PRN 55453 Name** Whetsone Hill  
**Period** Modern **Site Type** world war 2 defence  
**NGR** SM88360076

#### **Site Description (UID 304,019)**

Rectangular in plan, concrete hut floor with raised concrete generator set and engine bed. 'Nissen' hut structure has been removed. C1941-44 (Thomas, 1993). Part of 55454 group of support structures for AA Battery

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### **Management Issues**

The main management issue is the control of invasive vegetation which has the potential to damage built structural remains and below ground archaeological deposits by the intrusive action of roots and by obscuring the remains from view.

### **Desired Management Outcome**

The desired management outcome is to prevent degradation of the built structural remains and buried archaeological deposits and to keep them in a stable and visible condition. To establish a stable grass sward with no invasive vegetation in order to expose and thus manage any further hard standings, earthwork remains and associated metal work of the complex and its defences. This will enable a greater understanding and appreciation of the wider context of the nationally important gun emplacement.

### **Management Actions**

The following management actions are required in order to keep the structures in a stable and visible condition and expose further remains.

- Cut back by hand any vegetation encroaching onto the structures in order to maintain their visibility
- Clear excessive vegetation and ground cover from the area defined on the map by hand cutting to ground level, allowing the roots to rot in situ.
- Establish a stable grass sward, reseeding if necessary, and managing any subsequent vegetation growth if required.

### **Management Opportunities**

This HEF is part of, although not included within the boundary of, a publicly visible Scheduled Ancient Monument and adjacent to a War Memorial (PRN 54715) to which there is public access. There is the opportunity to promote greater public access to this HEF and the wider grouping of military remains through a dedicated path and interpretive signage. Consequently the full extent of the surviving remains should be identified, recorded and appropriately managed for public appreciation and understanding.

### **Glastir Whole Farm Code**

Please also remember that, unless we have indicated otherwise, the Glastir Whole Farm Code should be observed for all historic features on your farm. The Whole Farm Code states that you must not damage any historic feature identified on your agreement map. Definitions of damage to a historic feature include ANY of the following:

- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil.
  - Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage.
  - Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil.
  - Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or other agricultural practice.
  - Planting trees.
  - Allowing scrub to develop.
  - Ploughing or reseeding.
  - Displacing individual stone features.
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## Location Map



Historic Environment Feature UID 301,019  
UID 301,020

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