

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.

PRN 25812 Name BLAENCEULAN MINE WEST; BLAENCAELAN WEST
Period Post-medieval **Site Type** Lead mine
NGR SN712903

Site Description

The Blaenceulan mine is a lead mine complex showed in its full state on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. It includes two areas of activities, a lead ore works and a wider landscape of extraction and transportation activities. The ore works is located on the lower slopes of a valley where it could be fed by water from further upstream. It includes a close grouping of buildings such as furnaces, wheel pit, offices and powder magazine. The outline of some of these are clearly identifiable and sometimes named on the maps. The wider mining landscape covers the hillside to the north and west of the works. The identifiable remains here include shafts, levels, spoil heaps and track ways. Also surviving are traces of pumping equipment such as wheel pits and a rod way to send motive power from the water wheels to areas of use. The 1st edition map describes some shafts and levels as old, indicating they were no longer in use and suggesting mining operations lasting over a long period. The 1906 Ordnance Survey map describes the mine as disused signifying abandonment by this date. The whole area was surveyed in 1993 (Protheroe-Jones, 1993) and 47 individual features were identified resulting in 33 PRNs on the DAT HER (95628-95661).

The remains of the processing works currently survive as a range of ruined stone structures in various stages of deterioration, with tumbled walls and loose wall tops. In the wider mining landscape there are some structural remains of wheel pits, level entrances and various stone features. In addition other features survive as earthworks. The current land use is open moorland grazed by sheep. On recent aerial photographs (Ordnance Survey Next Perspectives, 2009) the remains of the ore works and outlying features are clearly visible (H Pritchard, 2013).

Management Issues

The main management issues are the continued deterioration of the built structural remains of the ore works and the hazardous nature of the whole area. The deterioration is caused by three main agents, livestock, vegetation and climate. Sheep shelter within the structures and cause damage through rubbing and persistent footfall. Invasive vegetation is limited in extent as ground conditions are generally barren and toxic to all but metaliferous flora. However vegetation such as rush and bracken is beginning to colonise some of the ruins and can cause damage through the prising apart of masonry bonds. (See PRN 95648 for specific management of one part) The most significant form of environmental damage is frost movement and strong wind which are disturbing the exposed wall tops. The use of the site for dumping of rubbish is also an issue (particularly within the wheel pit PRN 95461) which as well as being an eyesore, a danger to wild life can also obscure archaeological features. As with all mining landscapes there is a significant safety issue about unsecured shaft and level entrances and loose masonry which can be hazardous to both livestock and visitors. There is a public footpath passing through the buildings.

Desired Outcomes

The desired outcome is to halt further degradation of the significant structural remains of the processing works and to stabilise or improve the remaining structures. It is also desirable to improve the appearance and safety of the wider site to make it more understandable and visually pleasing in the landscape.

Management Actions (ore works)

The following management actions are required in order to keep the remains of the ore works in a stable condition:

- Discourage livestock from the ruins by fencing where appropriate
- Cut back any invasive vegetation by hand in order to prevent further damage and to enhance the visibility of the structure.
- To implement a scheme of consolidation of exposed wall tops by using a lime mortar or soft capping, utilising existing stone on site. Contact Dyfed Archaeological Trust for further advice.
- Clear all rubbish and debris and dispose of carefully away from the site

Management Actions (mining landscape)

- Clear all rubbish and debris and dispose of carefully away from the site
- Assess provision of safety features for exposed mine openings

As the wider mining remains are in a generally stable condition there are no specific management actions proposed for the wider landscape through Glastir. However attention is drawn to the Whole Farm Code, see below, and the farmer to be reminded of the obligations.

PRN 95648 **Name** BLAENCEULAN MINE WEST; BLAENCAELAN WEST
Period Post Medieval **Site Type** Mine structure
NGR SN71469038

Site Description

A part of the lead ore processing works within the Blaenceulan mine complex (PRN 25812). It is a long, narrow compartmentalised structure with sluice gates recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Recorded during the 1993 survey and described as "well-preserved outline of central 3 filterbeds and part of easternmost one, also of gutter to southeast" (Protheroe-Jones, 1993, Mine no.13, Site no.27). The aerial photographs (Next perspectives, 2009) show the structures overgrown with grass although their form is still identifiable (Huw Pritchard, 2013).

Management Issues

The management issue is the masking of the features by vegetation. Whilst the grass cover protects the features from further decay it obscures them from view and if unchecked will cover the remains completely

Desired Management Outcome

To maintain existing partial protective covering of grass whilst allowing form of the remains to be visible

Management Actions

The following management actions are required in order to keep the remains of the filter beds in a stable and visible condition:

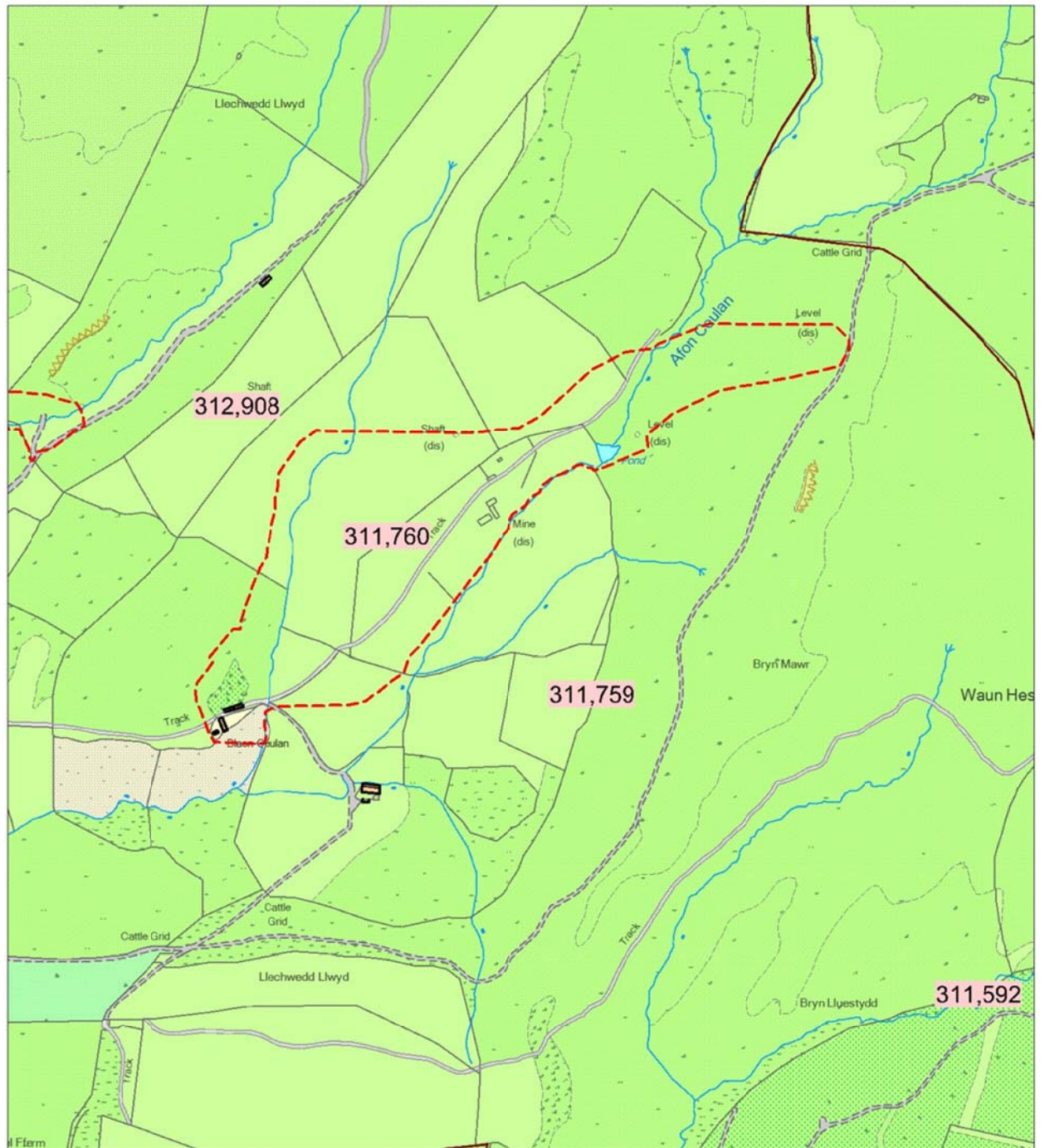
- To remove excessive vegetation and repeat as required.

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:

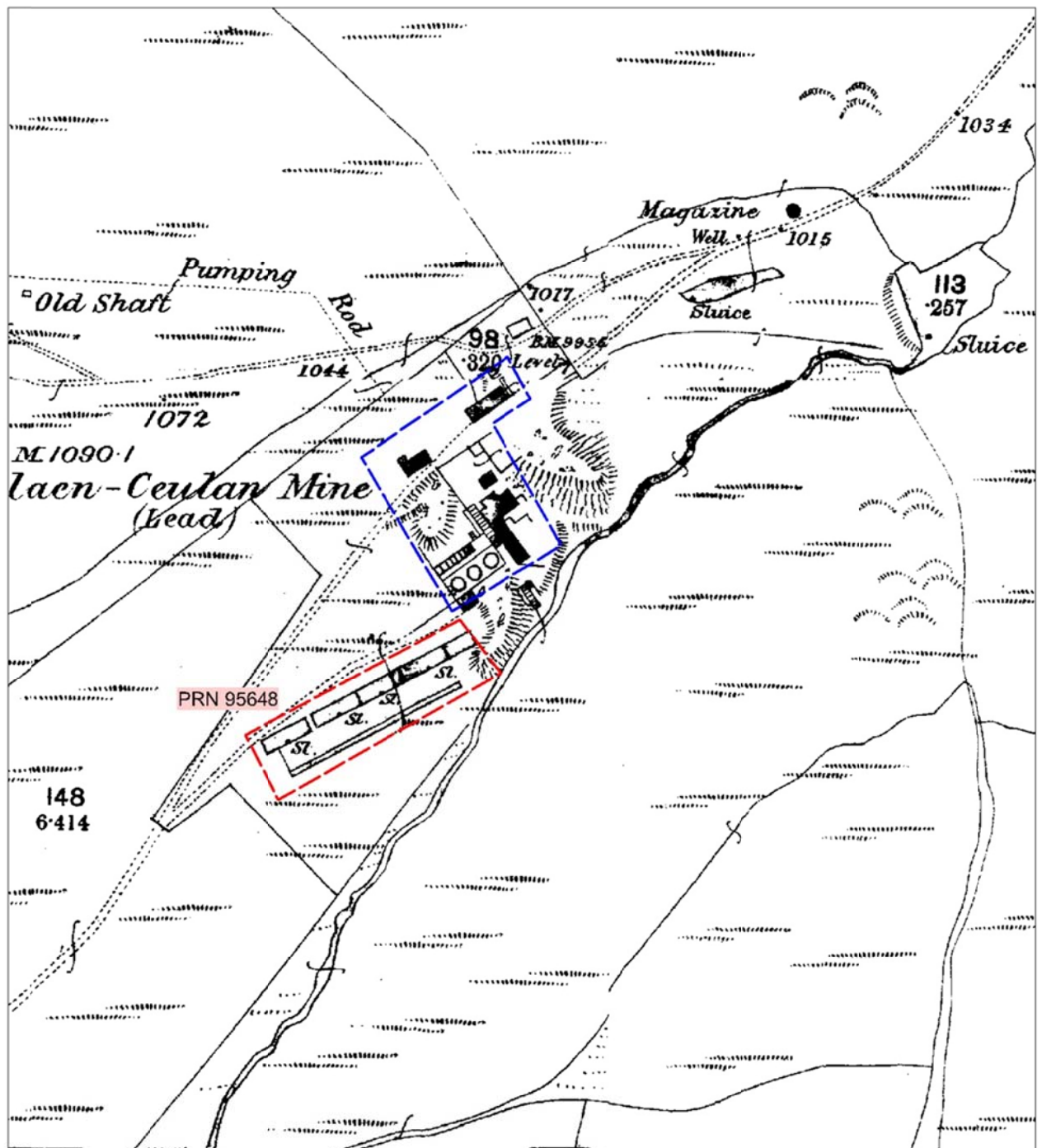
- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil.
 - Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage.
 - Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil.
 - Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles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



Historic Environment Feature UID 311,760

Map of Management Areas



PRN 95648 Area of management



Zone of active management of ore works

Aerial Photograph



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PRN 95648 Area of management



Zone of active management of ore works

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