

Historic Environment Feature Management Report:

West Esgair Lle lead mine

Customer Reference Number: A0027772

UID: 311,531



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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.

PRN 9171 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post-medieval **Site Type** Copper mine, Lead mine, Zinc mine

NGR SN775813

Site Description

West Esgair Lle lead mine dates to the late 18th and the 19th century and is recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Surviving features are located in two discrete blocks of land, linked by two parallel leats that originate further up the Castell valley (RPS 2003). The main part of the mine is westernmost (centred on NGR SN77428122), where the ore was crushed and processed. The smaller, eastern complex (centred on NGR SN77868148), includes a shaft (now capped) and waterwheel. This part of the mine was disused by the time of the 1905 2nd edition OS map (M.Ings, 2013).

Management Issues

UID 311531 represents just one part of a much larger mining complex (PRN 9171), linked by twin leats that originate further up the Castell valley. It is important that this relationship between the mine and the wider landscape is preserved. Recent aerial photographs (Ordnance Survey Next Perspectives 2009) identify scrub encroachment as a significant issue at this site, particularly in the south, where the leats (one once carried across the site by a now defunct aqueduct) cross the UID polygon and the old shaft (PRN 95406) is located.

The main mine buildings (PRN 95409) and wheel-pit (PRN 34951) appear on the aerial photographs to be substantial ruins and no management problems can be identified. However, it is advised that the ruins are visited to ascertain that they remain unthreatened by intrusive vegetation.

Conifers now border the northwestern extent of the mining complex. Building PRN 95410 could not be found during a 1993 field visit and possibly lies within the woodland area. It is important that this conifer plantation is not permitted to extend further into the UID.

Desired Management Outcome

The removal of scrub will make the layout of this well preserved mine complex far more visible and features identifiable. The desired management outcome is to maintain the various earthwork component features of this mine (leats (PRN shaft PRN 95406, spoil tip PRN 95408) in a visible and stable condition under a low growing grass or vegetation cover with no breaks in the ground surface.

Management Actions

The following management actions are required in order to return this part of the mine to a stable and visible condition. The growth of scrub and young trees is damaging to the long-term survival of built structural remains through the disruptive activity of root development, whilst also obscuring the visibility of the complex as a whole.

- Cut scrub back in the area around the leats, around the shaft and in the area between the mine buildings and the leats to maintain the visual cohesiveness of the complex.

- Remove any young trees or scrub rowing out of the collar of the shaft or wheel-pit by hand-cutting. Do not pull up by the roots as this is potentially destabilising to masonry bonds.
- Explore possible ways to preserve the archaeological deposits now beneath a track way, either through diverting the track or consolidating the area to prevent further erosion.

PRN 34951 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post-medieval **Site Type** Wheel pit
NGR SN77858147

Site Description

Site of waterwheel and associated buildings at the West Esgair Lle lead mine, recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. It was powered via an aqueduct linked to a leat to the south. Structure is still shown, although now disused, on the 1905 2nd edition OS. Only shown in outline on recent mapping (OS.mastermap, 2011) and seen as a substantial ruin on aerial photographs (OS. Next Perspectives, 2009) (M.Ings, 2013)

Management Issues

See PRN 9171

PRN 95406 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post Medieval **Site Type** Shaft
NGR SN77888142

Site Description

Shaft identified on Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). Recorded as boarded over with no adjacent structures, including no sign of an angle bob pit when visited by R Protheroe-Jones in 1993 (mine 115, no. 18). See PRN 9171 for additional references.

Management Issues

See PRN 9171

PRN 95407 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post Medieval **Site Type** Mine building
NGR SN77888144

Site Description

Building identified on Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). No visible remains identified when visited by R Protheroe-Jones in 1993 (mine 115, no.19).

Management Issues

See PRN 9171

PRN 95408 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post Medieval **Site Type** Spoil tip
NGR SN77888145

Site Description

Spoil tips shown but not named on Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). Recorded as being much removed when visited by R Protheroe-Jones in 1993 (mine 115, no. 20). See PRN 9171 for references.

Management Issues

See PRN 9171

PRN 95409 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post Medieval **Site Type** Mine building

NGR SN77868151

Site Description

Building recorded on Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). Described as being adapted for agricultural use with concrete blocks at the west end when visited by R Protheroe-Jones in 1993 (mine 115, no.22). See PRN 9171 for additional references.

Management Issues

See PRN 9171

PRN 95410 Name CASTELL MINE; NEW CASTELL; DYFFRYN CASTELL; CASTLE; WEST ESGAIRLLE; GWAITHDDU; CRIPAU BACH

Period Post Medieval **Site Type** Mine building

NGR SN77798150

Site Description

Small, square mine building recorded on 1887 1st edition and 1905 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps. No surviving traces noted when the site was visited by R Protheroe-Jones in 1993 (mine 115, no. 23). Aerial photographs (OS. Next Perspectives, 2009) indicate the site of the building to now be within/on the edge of conifer plantation (M.Ings, 2013)

Management Issues

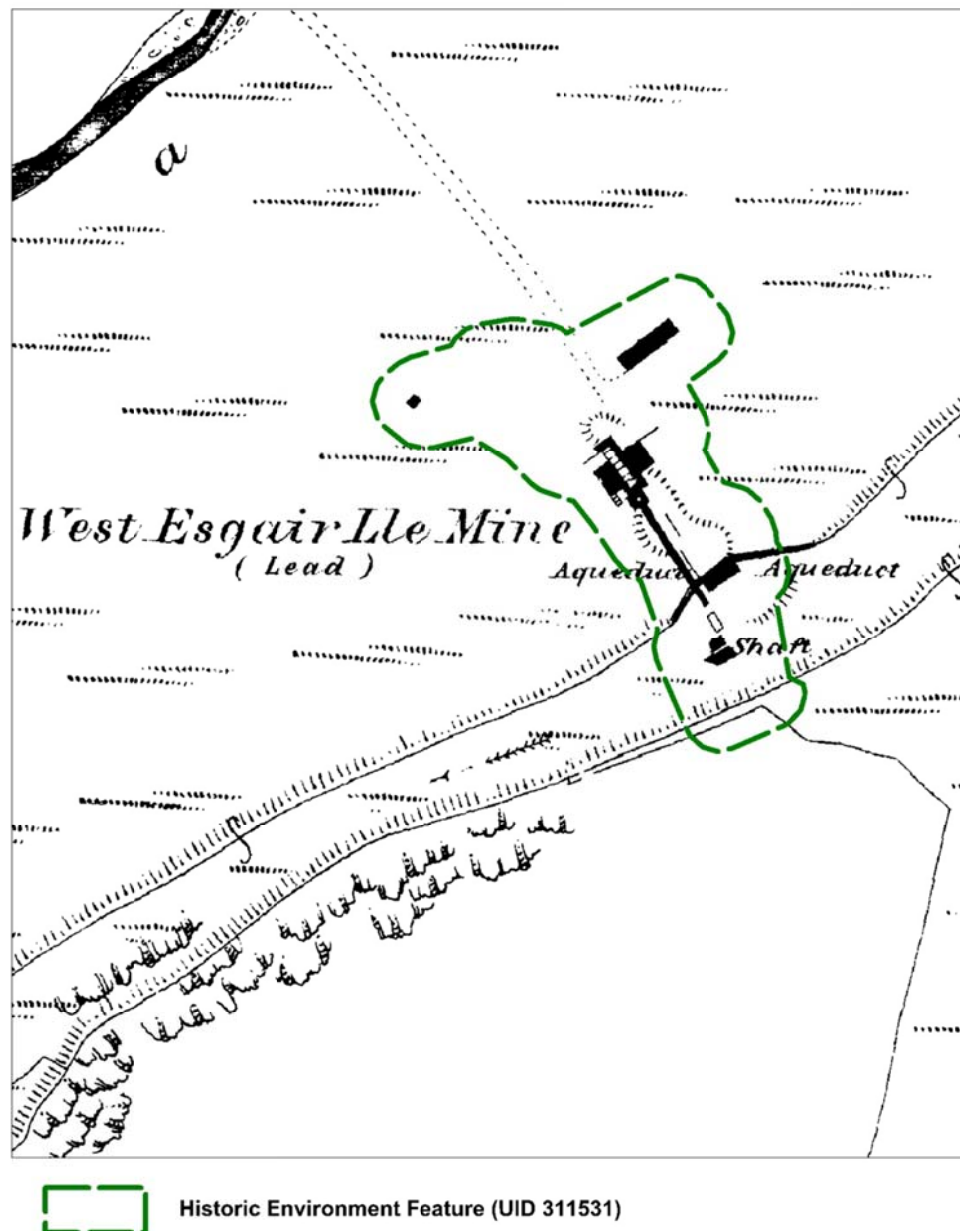
See PRN 9171

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:

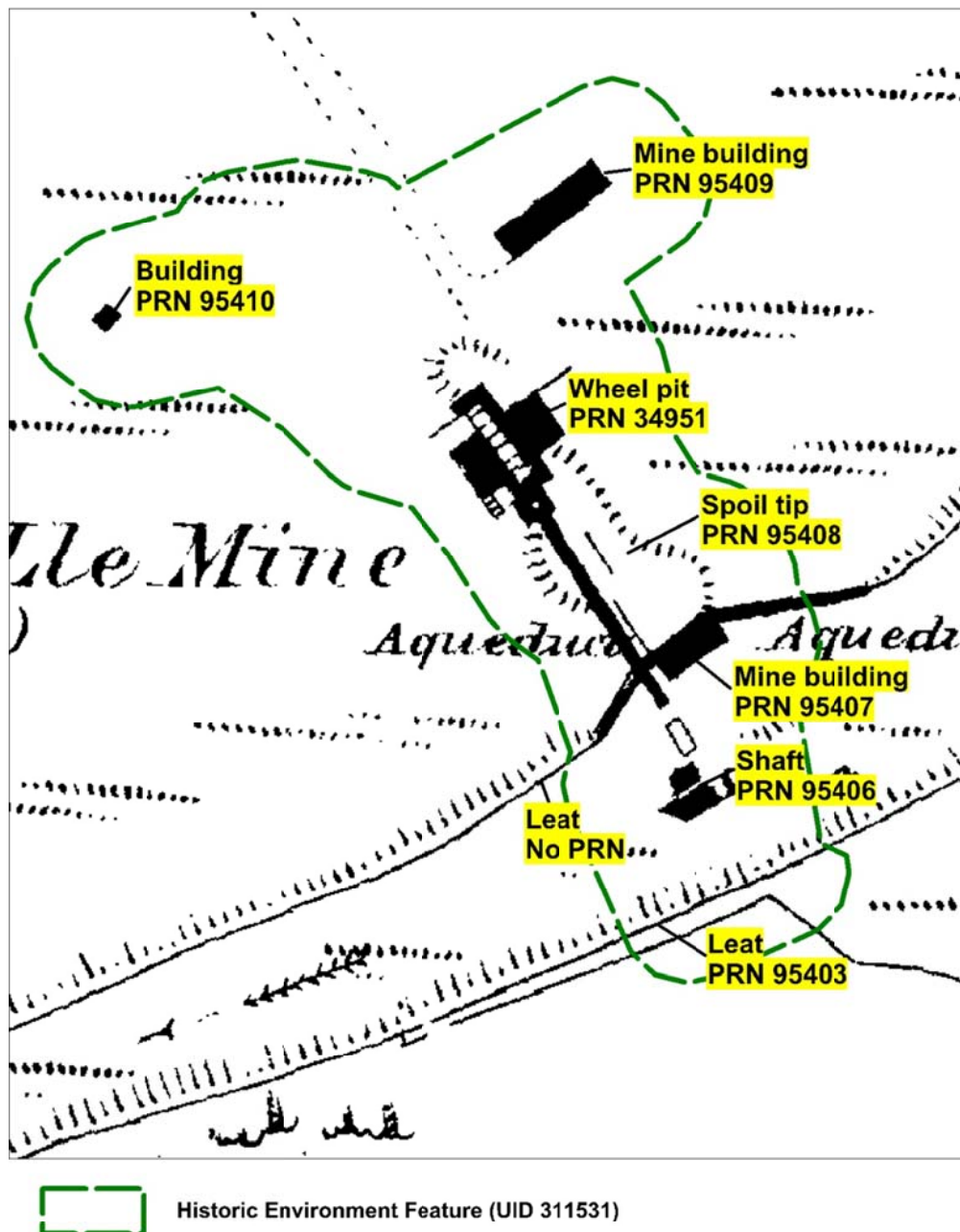
- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil.
- Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage.
- Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil.
- Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or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

Location Maps



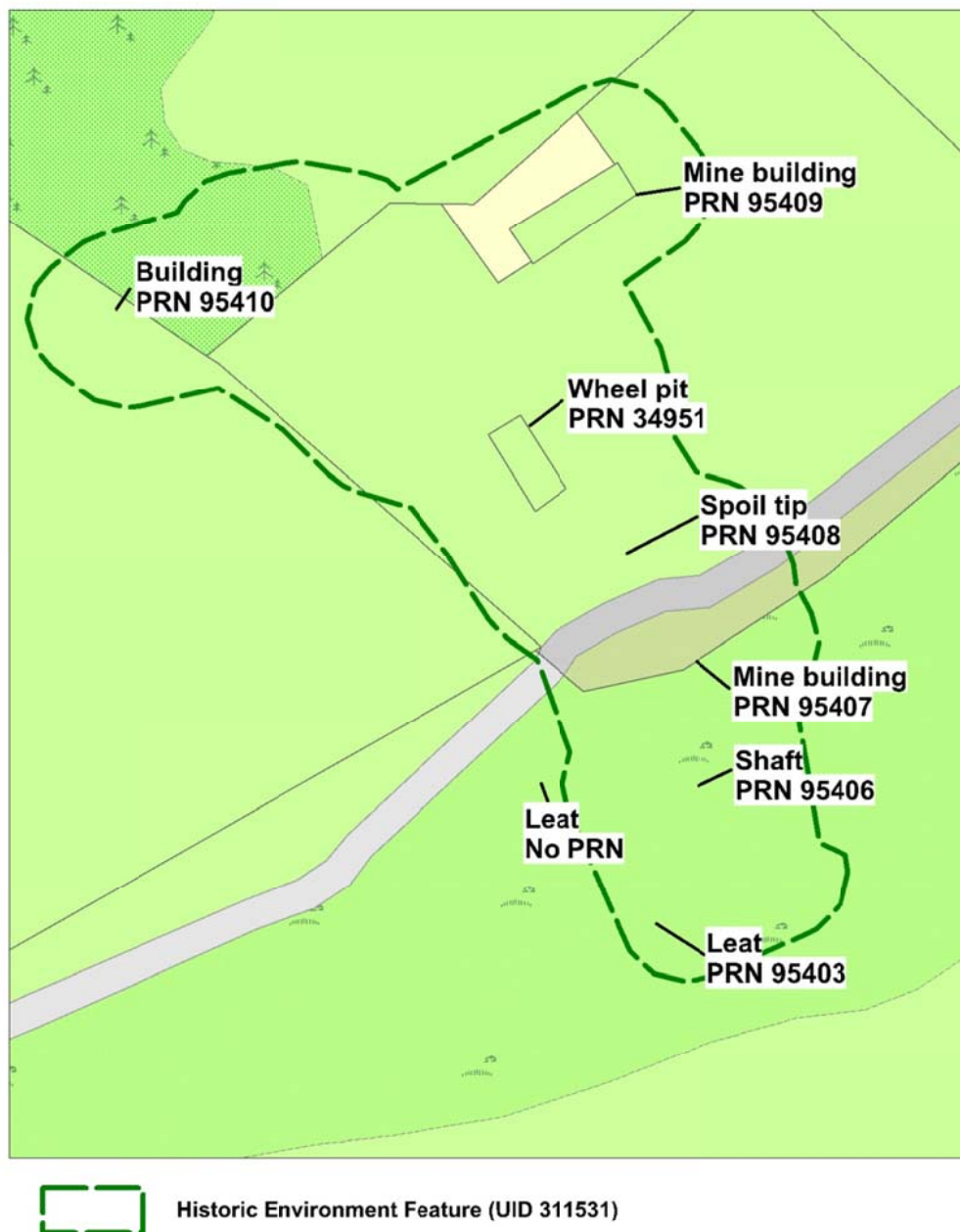
The eastern complex of West Esgair Lle Mine as recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map

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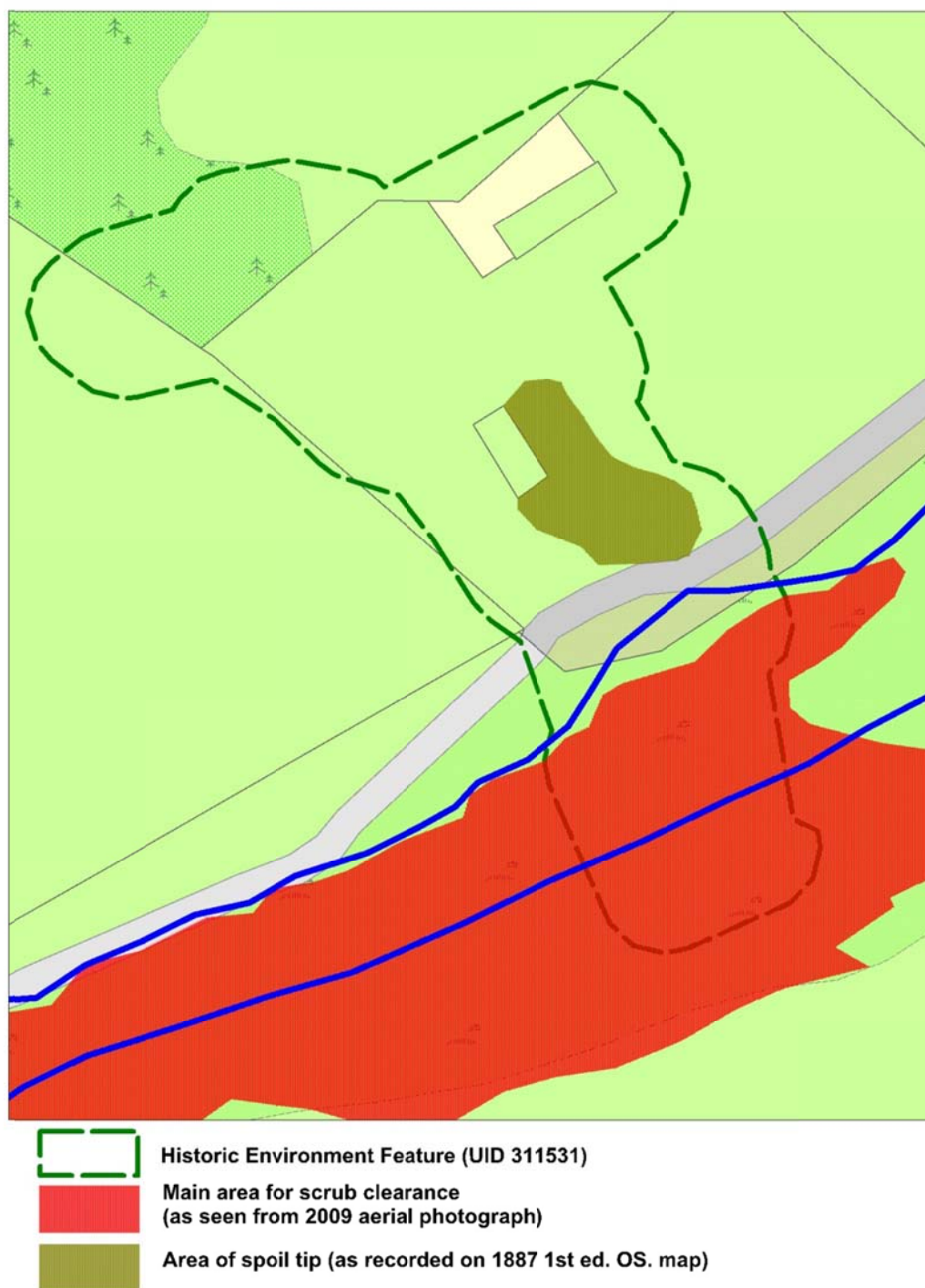
1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, showing location of PRNs within the West Esgair Lle Mine (PRN 9171)

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PRN location map – many sites no longer recorded on modern mapping

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Map showing main area identified for scrub clearance

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Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Heritage Management, The Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street,
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF.
tel (01558) 823131 , fax (01558) 823133, email info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk , website
www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk*

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