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## **BETTER WOODLANDS FOR WALES MANAGEMENT PLAN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (WHE1)**

**Prepared for:  
Coed Beili Rhyn**

**BWW Reference No  
16215**

**Prepared by Alice Pyper**

**Project Record No. 63418**

### **Archaeological Visit Recommended**

**The application area lies within the parkland of Cilgwyn Manor and is therefore part of a significant historic landscape. There are good opportunities for reinstating and enhancing the parkland character of this area. Any proposals should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology in advance, and it may be appropriate for an archaeological visit to be undertaken.**

# **INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

## **Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

This woodland application area lies on the eastern valley slopes of the Afon Ydw in the community of Myddfai, Carmarthenshire. A key element of the valley at this point is the historic house of Cilgwyn, a large 18th century mansion, with an earlier predecessor house which lies behind it (Jones 1987,30).

Evidently much of the landscape of the valley was planted to achieve a pleasing setting for the mansion, and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows trees scattered individually and in loose groups along the valley bottom and sides. The 1st edition map also demonstrates that some tight groups of tree planting were also evidently part of the landscaping for the mansion, the most notable of which is a circular tree ring planted with conifers atop a high local summit at the eastern extent of the application area (PRN 56780). This tree ring is no longer visible on recent aerial photographic mapping (Getmapping 2001).

Trees, woodland and plantations were evidently a distinct characteristic of the estate landscape towards the end of the 19th century. To the southwest, and outside the application area, a tree nursery is identified on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map. Today, dense plantations of mixed conifer and deciduous stock cloak the landscape to the north and east and the extensive Cilgwyn Wood, formerly Scotland Wood, skirts and to a small extent penetrates the application area.

## **Historic Environment Objectives**

The purpose of the management is to

- Ensure the survival of visible historic features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation of historic environment features by promoting sympathetic woodland management.
- Ensure the long-term preservation of features associated with historic woodland.
- Maintain or restore the historic configuration and visual character of the historic landscape.

# GENERAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

**All historic earthworks, structures, archaeological sites and traditional buildings must be retained and protected against damage. The following list identifies those Historic Environment Features affected by this application and the accompanying mapping shows each of these and identifies a sensitive area surrounding it. These sensitive areas must be actively managed for the life of the woodland management plan in accordance with the following requirements, in line with the Forestry Commission's *Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines, 1995*.**

## Planning

- Ensure that new planting and re-planting schemes are planned to avoid the sensitive areas surrounding historic environment features. Ideally these sensitive areas should not simply be left as unplanted islands in otherwise continuous woodland. Wherever possible these sensitive areas should be incorporated into larger buffer zones or clearings to facilitate access and ongoing management. Specific planting schemes involving historic environment features should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology at the planning stage.
- In areas of grazed woodland, grazing regimes and stocking levels should be approved by Cambria Archaeology prior to implementation. Similar approval should also be sought prior to significant changes to agricultural regimes.
- Consideration should be given to lessening the visual impact of new planting on historic environment features and historic landscapes.
- Consideration should be given to allowing / maintaining public access to historic environment features in woodland where this is both safe and practical. Specific access and interpretation schemes involving historic environment features should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology at the planning stage.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers are aware of the historic environment features and comply with these requirements. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.

## Mitigation

- Do not plant or re-plant trees within the defined sensitive areas surrounding historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not carry out any excavation or erect any new building or structure in the vicinity of historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks within the sensitive areas of historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not remove any material from the sensitive areas of historic environment features or deposit spoil or rubbish on them.
- Do not store timber or machinery within the sensitive areas of historic environment features.

- Do not use heavy machinery in the sensitive areas of historic environment features, especially in wet weather.
- Do not harvest or otherwise fell trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features without prior discussion with Cambria Archaeology.
- No intrusive archaeological investigation (such as excavation, field-walking to collect surface finds or metal detecting) should be allowed without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology, to ensure that such work complies with appropriate guidance - the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance*, and the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales, 2006*.

### Proactive management

- Control scrub and naturally regenerating trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features. Such vegetation should be cut off at ground level with its roots being left in the ground rather than pulled up or dug out. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance.
- Remove any dead or unstable trees from the vicinity of historic environment features, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance.
- Where appropriate, undertake regular brashing of trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features.
- Remove brash or other dead vegetation from the sensitive areas of historic environment features with care. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance.
- Wherever practicable, repair and reuse original historic environment features, such as boundary walls, rather than replace them. Repairs should be unobtrusive and where possible make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. Schemes of repair should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology prior to implementation.

### Legislation and Guidance

- **Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)** have statutory protection and consent from Cadw will be required for works to these monuments.
- **Listed buildings** have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority will be required for some works. Listed status may also apply to buildings and structures within the curtilage of a listed building.
- Areas of **historic parkland** of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.
- A number of **historic landscapes** are registered in the Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW *Registers of Outstanding and Special Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.
- The reporting of **archaeological finds** arising from woodland work must comply with the *Treasure Act, 1996*. Guidance on this and on the reporting of other **portable antiquities** can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>).

*Scheduled and listed sites and registered areas are identified as such below.*

## **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES**

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Cambria Archaeology has identified the following historic environment features. These are listed and described below and are shown on the accompanying map. Each feature is allocated a unique reference number (a Primary Record Number - PRN) that should be quoted in any correspondence.

**Each site listed must be managed in accordance with the General Management Requirements outlined above. Where sites require specific management this is set out below. These Specific Management Requirements are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the General Management Requirements.**

**PRN 56779 CILGWYN**

**Post Medieval park**

**SN7467529897**

Parkland associated with Cilgwyn Manor as shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey. Consists of scattered parkland trees and a large planted tree ring on the summit to the east (PRN 56780). The application area for Coed Beili Rhyn is shown consisting of parkland trees scattered in loose groups on the valley sides with a small area of unenclosed woodland on the lower slopes adjacent to Nelson cottage which lies to the south.

A large circular tree ring occupied the summit to the east, this no longer appears on recent OS mapping (PRN 56780). The parkland planting shown on recent aerial photography appears much diminished from that shown on the historic mapping.

*The following Specific Management is required.*

**The entire holding appears to have formed part of the estate landscaping for Cilgwyn manor, therefore any proposals for replanting or felling should be discussed in further detail with Cambria Archaeology and should be informed by historic mapping (Ordnance Survey 1st edition Carmarthenshire sheet 26.12, 27.09).**

**Depending on the scale and extent of the works proposed it may be appropriate for an archaeological visit to be undertaken. There are good opportunities for reinstating the parkland character of this landscape.**

**PRN 56780 CILGWYN**

**Post Medieval tree  
enclosure ring**

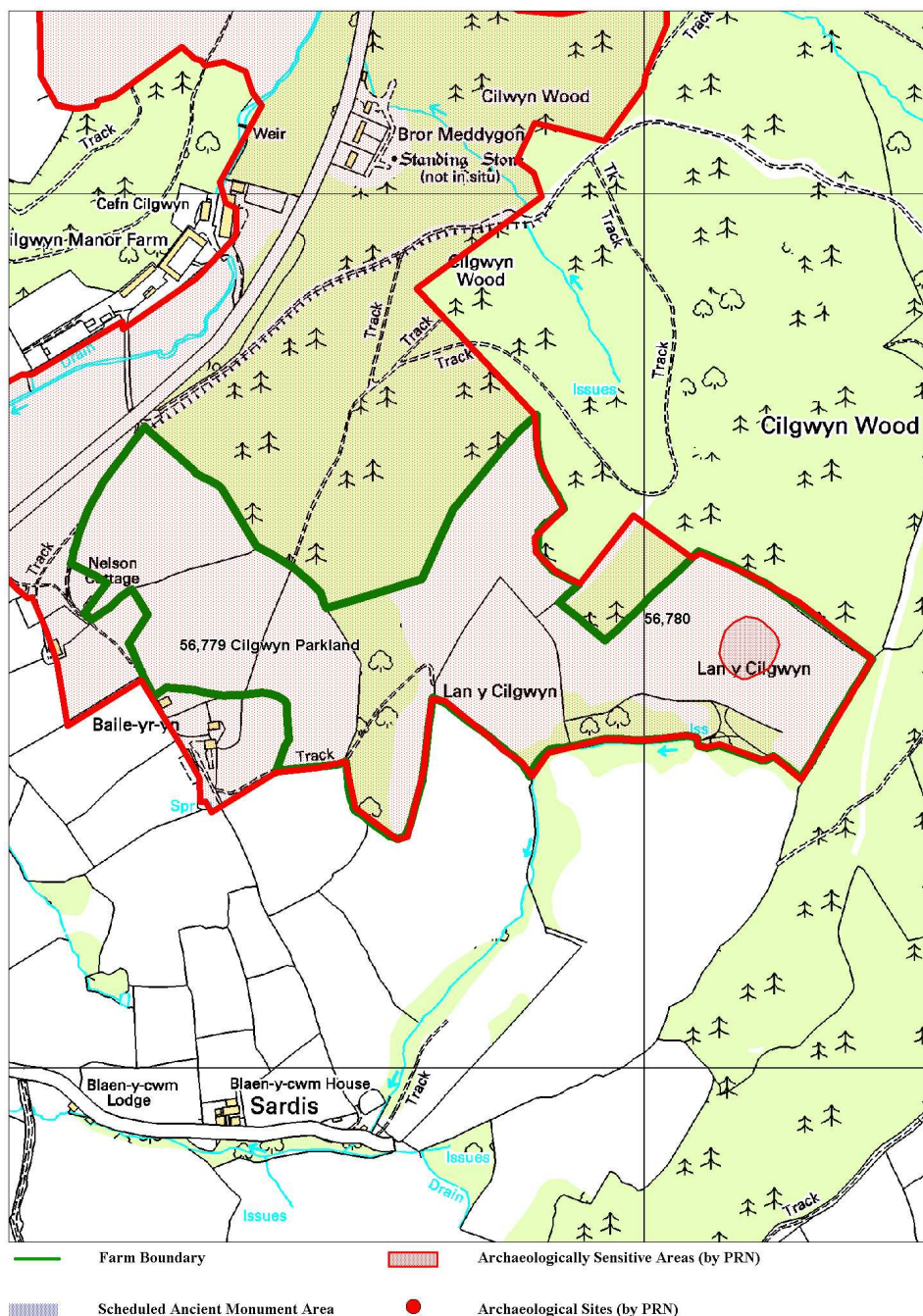
**SN7512029480**

Shown on the 1st edition OS is a circular enclosure filled with coniferous trees, approximately 65-70m in diameter. No longer identified on modern OS maps or 2001 Getmapping Aerial photograph. Situated in the parkland associated with Cilgwyn Manor (PRN 56779).

### ***Sources consulted:***

Jones, F. 1987. Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their families.  
Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition Carmarthenshire sheet 26.12  
Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition Carmarthenshire sheet 27.09

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be made known to Cambria Archaeology in order to update the Regional Historic Environment Record and where necessary amend management advice.



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