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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE1)

5 Year Review with additional land

**Prepared for:
Blaenblodau**

Tir Gofal Reference No 2320

**Prepared by
Will Steele
Project Record No. 37703**

**Other documents enclosed:
Listed Building Record Number 9742: Blaenblodau Hall
Historic Landscape Character Area Description 190: Llanfihangel Aberbythych**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Blaenblodau comprises nine separate land holdings within Carmarthenshire. The home farm, and several other holdings lie within close proximity to one another in the community of Llanfihangel-ar-arth, with another nearby holding (centred on the farmstead of Blaen-hauliw) lying to the east, on the opposite side of Mynydd Llanllwni in Llanfihangel Rhos-y-corn community. The landscape here is high and undulating, with farms and cottages set within a varied field pattern of irregular small enclosures which may have origins at the end of the medieval period, or larger straight sided fields of 18th or 19th century parliamentary enclosure on higher ground. The home farm holding itself appears to have been subject to remodelling as a polite landscape when the hall was constructed between 1811 and 1842 (Tithe Map), and the present layout of shelter belts and regular fields was established.

Three separate holdings lie in the south of the county, within the communities of Llanwinio, Llangyndeyrn and Llandybie, Dyffryn Cennen. This last holding is situated within the Cadw designated Tywi Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 5). This has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. Historic Landscape Character Areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape. The holding falls within area 190: Llanfihangel Aberbythych which includes the lower Cennen and the Marlais valleys. It essentially consists of land that is entirely enclosed by small- and medium-sized irregular fields with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms, which is likely to be late Medieval in origin.

Archaeological and Historic Content

The farmstead is the home farm to the adjacent Blaenblodau Hall (PRN 24910). Little is known of its early history although the estate appears to have undergone significant change between the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12 and the date of the tithe map publication (1842) when it took on a "polite" character. The Hall was added at this time and the farmstead was remodelled in the semi-formal layout recognisable today. Further changes included the laying out of the rectangular field pattern and shelter belt plantings, probably also the distinctive large cattle ponds in fields to the west (PRNs 44763, 44769, 447201 and 44772). Several small farmsteads, Aber-nawmor, Dolwen Fach and Clawdd-gwyn (PRNs 44764 - 44766), also exist within the farm of which the first two are shown on the 1811 map, while the latter had been established by 1842. They appear to have been smallholdings that were absorbed into the estate in the early 19th century and the farmhouses are small, late 18th - early 19th century buildings in the 'cottage' tradition.

The west end of the holding is bounded by the Afon Gwyddgrug which is crossed by an iron and concrete footbridge (PRN 44767), shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. A silted leat, taken from the Gwyddgrug, runs through two adjacent fields

and formerly supplied the waterwheel at the Sunnyhill Woollen Mill (PRN 16619), also shown in 1891. The mill itself lies outside the Tir Gofal management agreement area, as does Talog Mill (PRN 16617), a converted mill site with an associated leat also shown in 1891 (based on Ludlow 2002). The archaeology of the remaining holdings also relates primarily to evidence of rural settlement. The farmsteads of Blaen-hauliw (PRN64483), Cwmmackwyth (PRN64485), Gelli Felen (PRN 64486) Highgate Farm (PRN 64487), some of which have since been abandoned reflecting the process of rural depopulation from the end of the 19th century. Archaeological and historic content is described in detail in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

The management priority for the farm is to retain the landscape continuity through the sympathetic maintenance of field boundaries and through the upkeep of traditional buildings.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without prior approval.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to Dyfed Archaeological Trust (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to

buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management
Blaenblodau Farm (16614)	Post Medieval quarry	SN4600237077	C	Generic
Small limestone quarry, probably post-medieval and disused by the early 19 th century; marked and labelled "Old Quarry" on the 1891 Ordnance Survey 6" map. Circular quarry, approx. 30m in diameter and 10m deep, excavated into north facing slope with narrow entry to north. The outcrop appears to have been entirely worked out. The quarry is in poor condition. The earth sides are actively weathering and overgrown with saplings and other vegetation. It had been used for the dumping of agricultural refuse including black plastic sheeting, corrugated metal sheeting, containers and tyres.				
Blaenblodau Farm (16616)	Post Medieval quarry	SN4667237748	C	Generic
Small limestone quarry, probably post-medieval and disused by the early 19th century; marked but not labelled on the 1891 Ordnance Survey 6" map. Irregular outline, approx. 50m north-south and 20m east-west, excavated into east facing slope from the banks of the Afon Talog. The quarry is in good condition, with limestone still outcropping throughout, supporting some saplings but with little other vegetation.				
Talog Mill (16617)	Post Medieval woollen mill	SN4633637616	B	Generic
Site of post-medieval woollen mill, marked and labelled on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. A dwelling now occupies the site, of apparent late 19th century construction but possibly altered from the mill structure, which was still operational in 1904 (Ordnance Survey 6" map). Not apparently marked on the tithe map of 1842. It is a typical two-storeyed, three-bayed dwelling with a slate gabled roof and end chimneys, rendered throughout, with a later extension to the rear (east). There is little evidence of its former function,. The headrace leat ran parallel with Afon Talog for 300m northeast of the mill, but is only slightly discernible as a very faint depression on the ground. There is no evidence for the wheelpit. A masonry building, comprising one storey over a basement, lies immediately north of the dwelling; it also appears to be late 19th century and of a domestic character.				
Blaenblodau Farm (44762)	Post Medieval pump house	SN4696537193	B	Generic
Pump house marked and labelled on the Ordnance Survey 10k data, the CCW consultation map, and suggested on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, but not on the 1907 edition. The site indicated lies against a field boundary immediately to the west of the farmyard, but there is now no physical evidence for a structure in this location.				
Blaenblodau Farm (44763)	Post Medieval pond	SN4657337660	B	Generic
The largest of the four ponds on the holding. It now lies within a shelter belt 500m to the north of the farmstead, and consists of a regular, rectangular area, approx. 50m east-west and 20m north-south, defined by substantial banks on the (downhill) north, east and west sides to catch run-off from the field. The banks				

are 2m wide and 1m high, with vertical sides and with a rubble core. There does not appear to have been any masonry lining. The pond is now dry. It appears to date from the early 19th century landscape re-organisation, suggesting that the shelter belt was a later planting; however it comprises mature Scots Pines which have also been planted within the pond banks.

Dolwen-fach ([44764](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN4611037247** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

Small farmstead dwelling shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. It appears to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19th century. The dwelling is a small, late 18th - early 19th century building in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19th century extensions, of an agricultural character, to east and west, but no detached traditional farm buildings. The dwelling is also marked on the tithe map of 1842 on which, however, the present lane leading to the dwelling from the south is not suggested.

Aber-nawmor ([44766](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN4528336405** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

Small farmstead shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. It appears to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19th century. The dwelling is a small, late 18th - early 19th century buildings in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19th century traditional farm buildings around a farmyard to the north of the dwelling. The dwelling is also marked on the tithe map of 1842 as is the present lane leading to the farmstead from the south-east.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4523136334** **B** **Generic**
([44767](#)) **footbridge**

Small footbridge over the Afon Gwyddgrug marked on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. The bridge comprises two iron rails supporting a concrete footway, with an iron handrail on one side. There is a pier only at the north end, which appears to have been replaced by a concrete pier; both are now displaced. In its present form, the bridge may be earlier 20th century.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval leat** **SN4540536260** **B** **Generic**
([44768](#))

Silted leat running WNW-ESE from the Afon Gwyddgrug across two fields, to supply the former Sunnyhill Woollen Mill (PRN 16619), which lies outside Blaenblodau holding to the southeast. The line of the leat is clearly visible though the channel, which is approx. 1.5m wide, is now practically dry, and supports a marsh vegetation of rushes etc. The channel lies between two low banks, each approx. 2m wide, which have been eroded by livestock in areas.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4592636570** **B** **Generic**
([44769](#)) **pond**

The least well-preserved of the four ponds on the holding. It lies against a field boundary that forms its east side, to catch run-off from the downhill slope of the field to the west. It is still wet. It consists of a regular, rectangular area, approx. 20m north-south and 15m east-west, defined by low banks to the north and south. These were once higher and have been ploughed or bulldozed out, leaving them as irregular spreads, up to 5m wide, featuring much loose limestone derived from the rubble core. There does not appear to have been any masonry lining. The pond appears to date from the early 19th century landscape re-organisation.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4650236802** **B** **Generic**
([44770](#)) **pond**

One of the four ponds on the holding. It is still wet, and lies against a field boundary that forms its east side, to catch run-off from the downhill slope of the field to the south. It is still wet. It consists of a regular, rectangular area, approx. 20m north-south and 15m east-west, defined by low banks to the north and west. These now support hedgerows and their construction cannot be seen. The pond has internal masonry lining. It appears to date from the early 19th century landscape re-organisation, and is still in active use now being entered by livestock from the southeast via a modern gate.

Pen-y-rhos ([44771](#)) **Post Medieval tree** **SN4670136893** **B** **Generic**
 ring

Circular feature, in the centre of a field, marked and labelled 'Pen-y-rhos' on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891 when it was associated with a trig point. Only the trig point is shown on the 1907 edition. There is now no physical evidence for the feature, whose nature is entirely unknown - possibly a copse?

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4688837029** **B** **Generic**

[\(44772\)](#)

pond

The best-preserved of the four ponds on the holding. It is still wet, and lies against two field boundaries that form its north and east sides, to catch run-off from the downhill slope of the field to the south. It is still wet. It consists of a regular, square area, approx. 15m x 15m, defined by a low bank to the west. All banks now support standard trees. The pond has internal masonry lining. It appears to date from the early 19th century landscape re-organisation, and is still in use.

Blaen-hauliw [\(64483\)](#)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN53383657 B

Generic

A farmstead recorded with a haphazard arrangement of buildings on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Present condition unknown, although comparison with recent maps suggests good potential for the survival of traditional buildings here.

**Cwmmagwydd;
Cwmmackwith** [\(64485\)](#)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN44464018 B

Generic

A U-plan farmstead recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Recent maps show a number of buildings in the same positions suggesting good potential that traditional buildings may survive.

Gelli-Felen [\(64486\)](#)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN47233448 B

Generic

Farmstead recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888), and recorded as substantially enlarged on more recent maps with some of the original buildings apparently now lost.

Highgate Farm [\(64487\)](#)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN47783448 B

Generic

A ruinous farmstead site, identified as Highgate Farm on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888).

Talog Mill [\(64488\)](#)

Post Medieval leat **SN4640237697 B**

Generic

The headrace leat to Talog Mill. Ran parallel with Afon Talog for 300m northeast of the mill, but is only slightly discernible as a very faint depression on the ground. There is no evidence for the wheelpit.

Blaenblodau [\(64489\)](#)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN46873716 B

Generic

The home farm to Blaenblodau Hall (Listed Building Grade II). Apparently remodelled between 1811-12 (Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing) and 1842 (tithe map) at the same time the Hall was built when it took on its present semi-formal layout. Comprises a detached farmhouse in a prominent position which overlooks the farm buildings on either side of the yard. The farmstead is now augmented with a number of 20th century steel framed buildings.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.

- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management
Blaenblodau Hall (24910)	Post Medieval major dwelling	SN4687537167	A LBII	Generic
<p>Mansion house set in walled enclosure immediately south of Blaenblodau Farm (PRN 44755). The house appears to have been built new between 1811 (Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing) and 1842 (Tithe Map) in a late-Georgian style. It was apparently once owned by the Mansels of Maesycrugiau (NMR Record) but had been acquired by the Jones family before 1906, by which time the farm was in the occupation of William Thomas (Jones 1987, 9). By the mid 20th century it was the possession of the Knights of Llandeilo, with whom it remained until the early 1990s. It was apparently sold in 2001. The house has been empty for over 10 years and is derelict, and becoming ruinous. It is a two-storey and basement structure, in rubble, with a slate roof on wide boarded eaves. The main, west front is three-bayed has a first floor sill band, broad end pilaster strips and 16-pane sash windows with rubble voussoirs. This elevation was originally symmetrical around a central, semicircular-headed entrance within a bowed projection, with a 6-panel door and traceried fanlight. To this was later added a two-storeyed, pebbledashed, gabled porch, open to the ground floor. To the west is a railed area containing steps down to the basement doorway, and a 20th century kitchen extension. The gable ends have 12-pane sash windows and cement-rendered chimney stacks. The rear, east elevation is two-bayed and symmetrical with two matching, full-height bowed projections with similar glazing; sill band and pilasters similar to west elevation. The interior retains many original features including the late-Georgian staircase, 6-panel doors, panelled shutters and moulded cornices. The rear (east) half of both floors is occupied by a full-width room with original sliding partitions, a simple applied 'Adamesque' detail being applied to the ground floor ceiling. The house lies within an enclosure with low rubble walls. The main entrance is to the southwest, between concrete gateposts, leading to a driveway to the main west entry. There are also entrances to the northwest and north, also accessed from drives between which, to the west, lay a fountain and ponds. There is a former lawned area to the east of the house. All elements are now under heavy vegetation including laurel and difficult to discern, while the conifers planted around the east side of the enclosure are now very large.</p>				
Blaenblodau Farm (44756)	Post Medieval farmhouse	SN4685537210	A	Generic
<p>Farmhouse occupying a prominent position forming the west end of the farmyard. The house is of two-storeys and gabled. The main elevation faces east. The asymmetrical nature of this three-bayed elevation suggests that the house dates from between 1811 and 1842 (Tithe Map), when it was probably new-built, apparently not being shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. However, the openings all appear to have been rebuilt, with segmental heads, in c.1900 when the external rendered finish was applied, and the small walled yard built to the east. The gable ends carry brick chimneys and the gabled roof is slated. There is a single storey, later 20th century extension to the south.</p>				
Blaenblodau Farm (44757)	Post Medieval cowshed/cart shed	SN4686537230	A	Generic
<p>Long masonry block forming the north range of the farmyard. It is probably of locally quarried limestone rubble construction, of two storeys throughout, and gabled with a continuous slated roof. Openings are simple, many of them with segmental, yellow brick heads, and the entire building appears to be an addition, built between 1887 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1891) and 1904 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1907). It has been little altered. The eastern two-thirds of the building comprise a long chamber, with a loft over, with two wide ground floor entries from the farmyard ie. in the south wall, beneath segmental, yellow brick heads. There are two small, square windows, with similar heads but with modern, 2-pane glazing, in the same wall. The interior was not seen, but this part of the building appears to have been a cowshed. The loft over is lit by three small, square windows at eaves level in the south wall, glazed as in the ground floor, and has a gabled loft door in the same wall. The northern third of the building is defined by a transverse, masonry stair to the loft. It is also of two storeys, with similar detail to the rest but without the brickwork. The</p>				

impressions of three, wide blocked arches can be seen in the south wall suggesting that it was originally a cart shed. These were subsequently blocked (in the early-mid 20th century?) and this part of the building perhaps converted into a dwelling, entered from the farmyard through a ground floor doorway in the south wall, with a concrete lintel, in the central infilled arch, and lit by a square window with a concrete lintel, and contemporary 6-pane glazing, in both the blocked flanking arches. The first floor was also a loft and has similar lights to those to the east, but one is now a shuttered opening - original? A single-storey brick lean-to in the middle of the south wall may have been a dairy, added in the early-mid 20th century.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4688137210** **A** **Generic**
[\(44758\)](#) **barn/stable**

Long masonry block forming the south range side of the farmyard. It is of ?locally quarried limestone rubble construction, and gabled with a continuous slated roof. Openings are simple, mostly with timber lintels, and the entire building appears to be from the 1811-1842 period of re-organisation when the farm became the home farm of the Blaenblodau estate; it is suggested on the tithe map of 1842 (shown properly on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891). It has been little altered. The eastern half of the building comprises a large, single storeyed chamber, entered from the farmyard through a wide, full-height opening in the north wall; there are no further external openings in this wall. The interior was not seen, but this part of the building appears to have been a barn, with a threshing-door to the yard. A single-storey brick lean-to against the north wall appears to have been an engine-house for machine-threshing, added in the early-mid 20th century. The western half is of two storeys, and is entered from the farmyard through a large opening in the north wall with a segmental head; it is lit by a simple square window in the same wall with modern 2-pane glazing. It appears to have been a stable, with a loft over, reached from an external; masonry stair against the west gable wall. The loft is lit by a similar window at eaves level. A two-storeyed extension was subsequently added against the east end of the range (before 1904), apparently representing a further stable with a large entry at ground floor level, with a segmental brick head, and a loft reached from an external masonry stair against the north wall. The loft is ventilated by a slit in the east, gable wall and both floors are lit by small square windows with brick heads and modern 2-pane glazing.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4689037234** **A** **Generic**
[\(44759\)](#) **building**

Ruined masonry building at the east end of the farmyard. It appears to have been an L-shaped, ?single storey structure with a doorway in the south (end) wall. It is first clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891. Only the north, west and south walls survive, in a ruinous condition, overgrown with saplings, and the original function of the building is unknown.

Blaenblodau Farm **Post Medieval** **SN4683237241** **A** **Generic**
[\(44760\)](#) **cowshed?**

Low, single-storey detached masonry building lying to the northwest of the farmyard. It is probably of locally quarried limestone rubble construction, and gabled with a continuous slated roof. The interior was not seen, but appears to have comprised a single chamber with large entries in the south wall. These have been altered and now comprise two full-height openings with concrete lintels. However, the outlines of two similar openings can be seen between them, with later 20th century breeze-block infill. The building, which is first clearly shown on the Ordnance Survey 6" map of 1891, may have been constructed as a cowshed, and the square opening in the west gable wall, at eaves level, may originally have been the pitching hole of a loft reached from an internal stair.

Blaenblodau Hall [\(44761\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN4678337176** **A** **Generic**
dwelling

Dwelling lying in the northwest corner of the enclosure around Blaenblodau Hall (PRN 24910). It appears to have been built between 1887 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1891) and 1904 (Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1907), probably to house a family member of the then owners of the hall. It is a typical late 19th century two-storeyed, three-bayed dwelling in limestone rubble, with yellow-brick surrounds and quoins, with a slate-gabled roof. There is a 20th century extension on the rear (north) wall, which like the east and west end walls, is rendered.

Dolwen-fach [\(44764\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN4611037247** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

Small farmstead dwelling shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. It appears to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19th century. The dwelling is a small, late 18th - early 19th century building in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19th century extensions, of an agricultural character, to east and west, but no detached traditional farm buildings.

The dwelling is also marked on the tithe map of 1842 on which, however, the present lane leading to the dwelling from the south is not suggested.

Clawdd-gwyn ([44765](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN4574036926** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

Small farmstead dwelling, not shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12 but marked on the tithe map of 1842. It appears either to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19th century, or a cottage for estate workers. The dwelling is a small, early 19th century building in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19th century extensions, of an agricultural character, to the east, but no associated traditional farm buildings. The present lane leading to the dwelling from the south is not suggested on the tithe map of 1842.

Aber-nawmor ([44766](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN4528336405** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

Small farmstead shown on the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing of 1811-12. It appears to have been a smallholding that was absorbed into the Blaenblodau estate in the early 19th century. The dwelling is a small, late 18th - early 19th century building in the 'cottage' tradition. There are later 19th century traditional farm buildings around a farmyard to the north of the dwelling. The dwelling is also marked on the tithe map of 1842 as is the present lane leading to the farmstead from the south-east.

Blaen-hauliw ([64483](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN53383657** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

A farmstead recorded with a haphazard arrangement of buildings on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Present condition unknown, although comparison with recent maps suggests good potential for the survival of traditional buildings here.

([64484](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN53443612** **B** **Generic**
cottage

Former cottage site identified as a series of small enclosures with the outline of a small building on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). It is not known what survives of the site today.

Cwmmagwydd; **Post Medieval** **SN44464018** **B** **Generic**
Cwmmackwith ([64485](#)) **farmstead**

A U-plan farmstead recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Recent maps show a number of buildings in the same positions suggesting good potential that traditional buildings may survive.

Gelli-Felen ([64486](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN47233448** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

Farmstead recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888), and recorded as substantially enlarged on more recent maps with some of the original buildings apparently now lost.

Blaenblodau ([64489](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN46873716** **B** **Generic**
farmstead

The home farm to Blaenblodau Hall (Listed Building Grade II). Apparently remodelled between 1811-12 (Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors' Drawing) and 1842 (tithe map) at the same time the Hall was built when it took on its present semi-formal layout. Comprises a detached farmhouse in a prominent position which overlooks the farm buildings on either side of the yard. The farmstead is now augmented with a number of 20th century steel framed buildings.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.

- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

In order to achieve this you will need to observe the following:

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area

WS - 23/04/2008 (11:46:16) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE1 report, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Project record number 89898.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk, website www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Sources consulted:

Maps

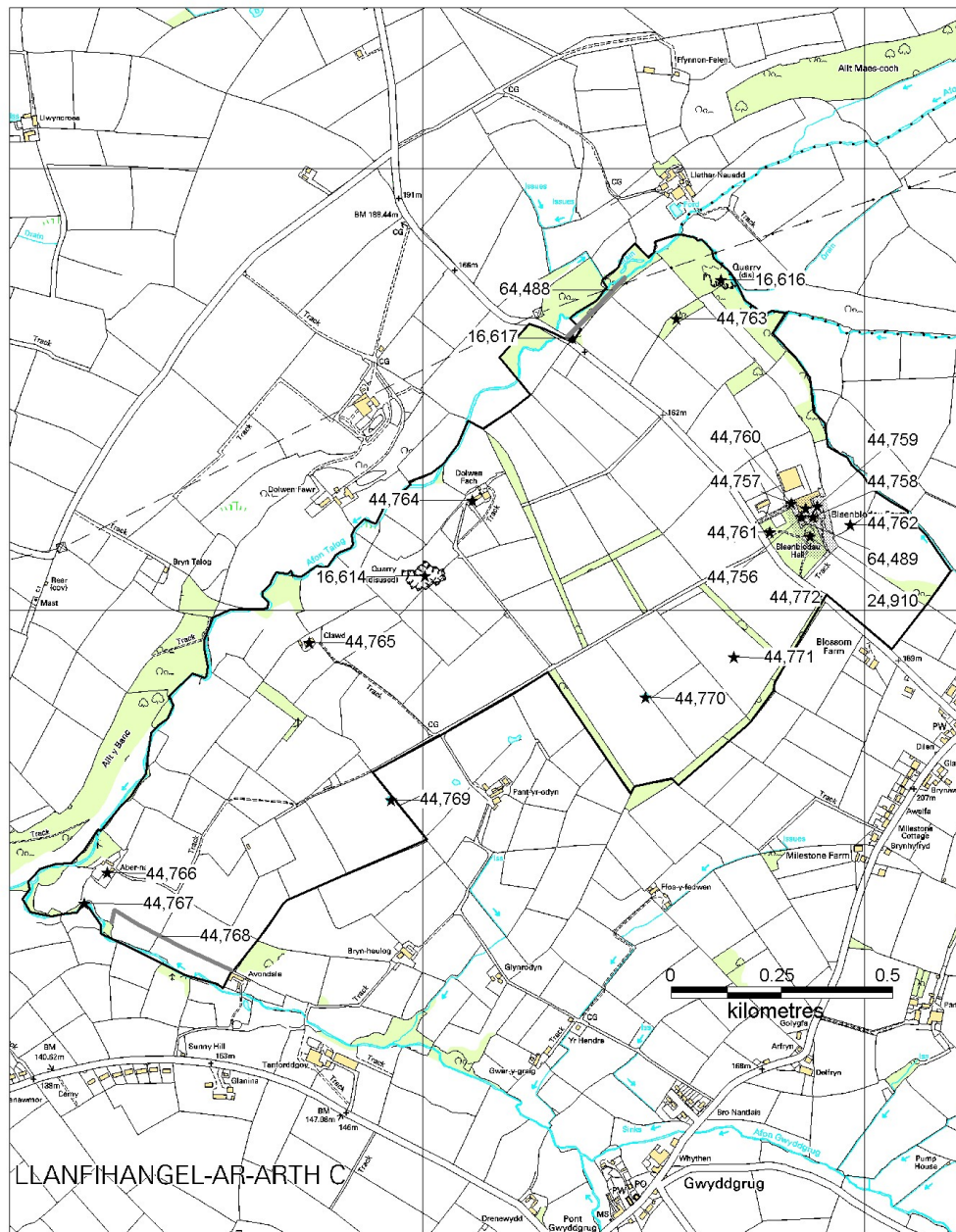
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Ordnance Survey 1880 1st edition Carmarthenshire Sheet 47.09, 25"
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Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Parish, Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1842.
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Other Sources

Jones F 1987 Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and Their Families. Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society and Cultural Services Department Dyfed County Council.

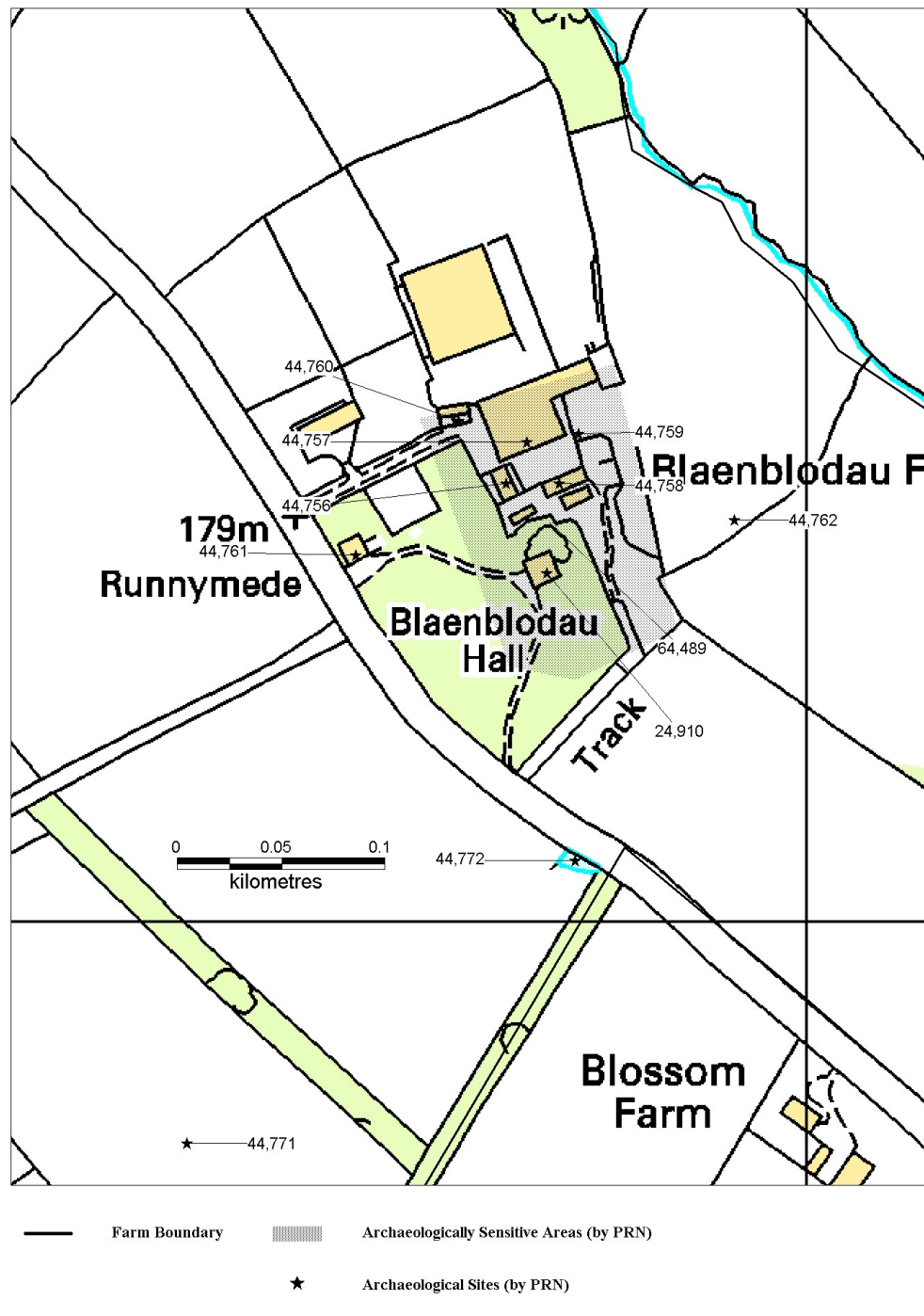
Ludlow N 2002 Blaenblodau W/12/2320 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Report, Cambria Report No. 2002/35.

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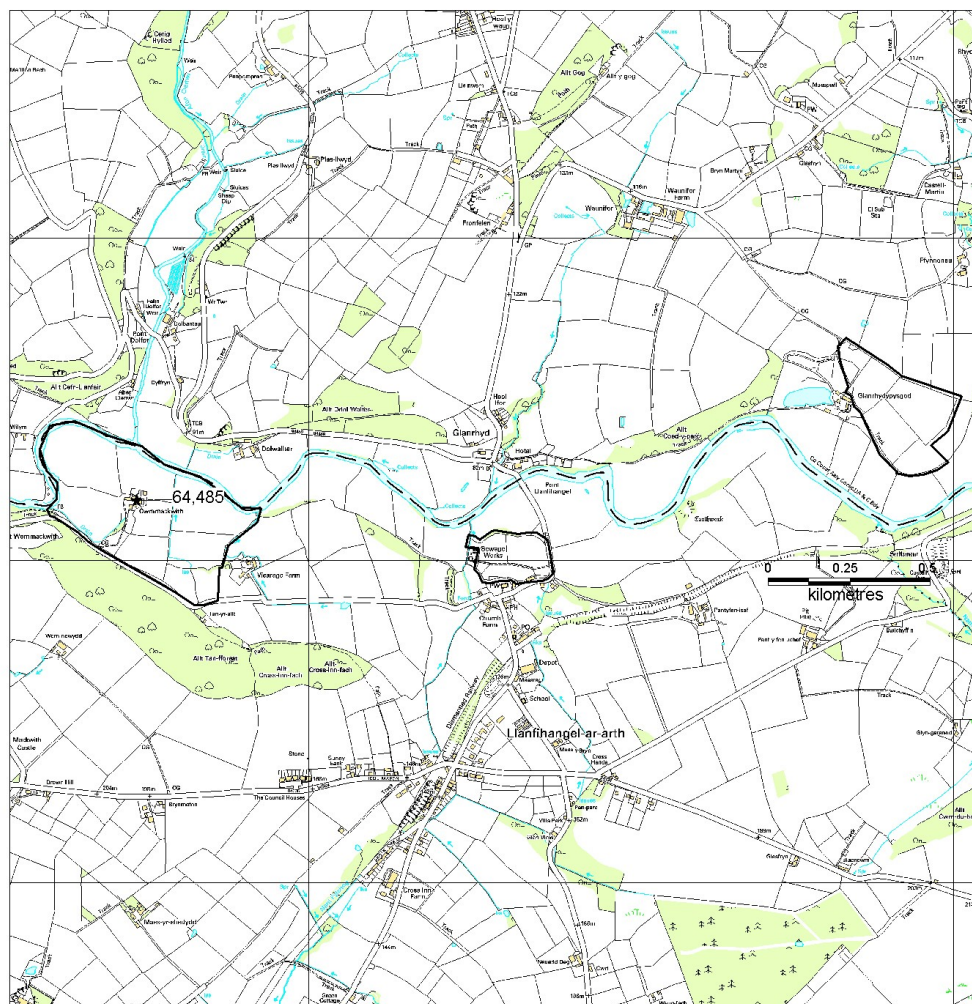


- Farm Boundary
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- Archaeological Sites (by PRN)

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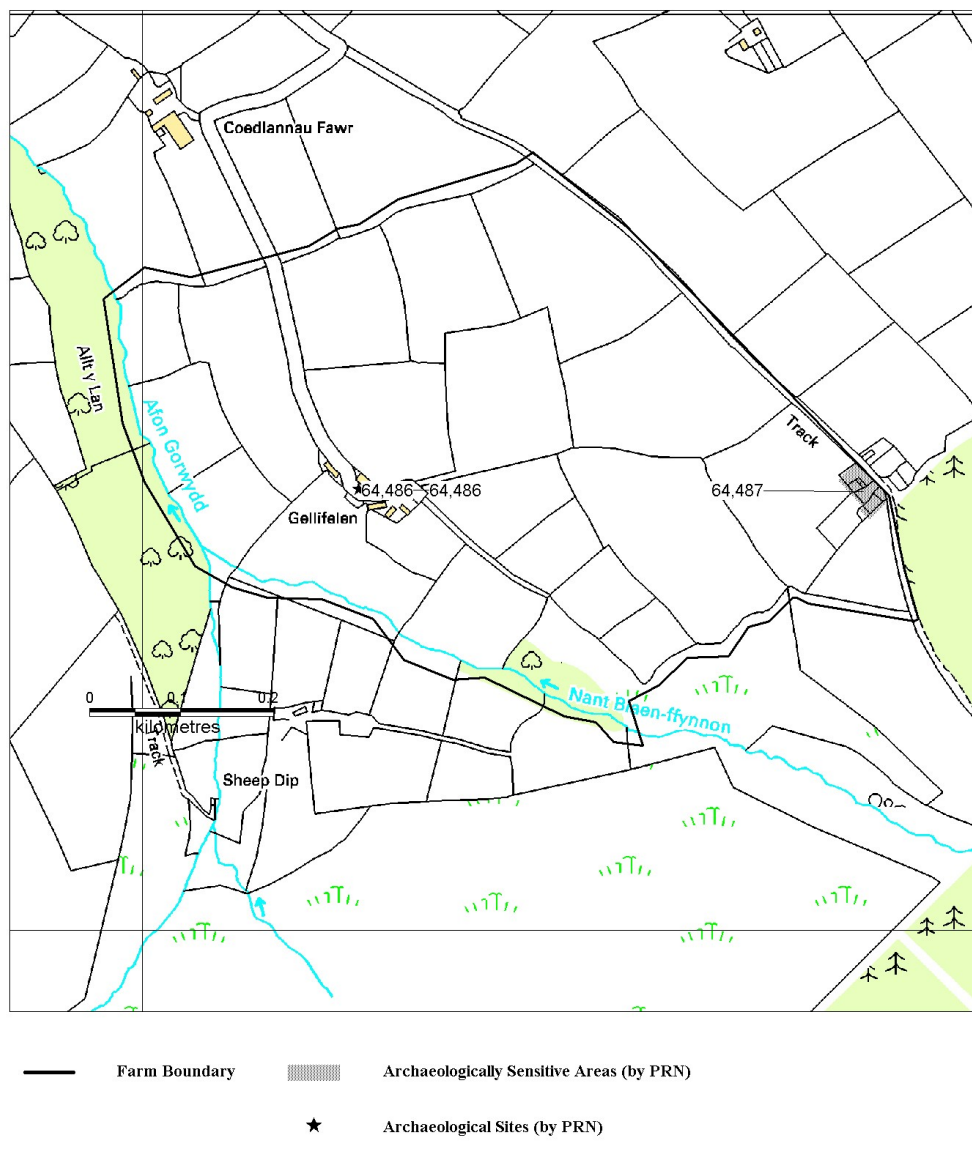
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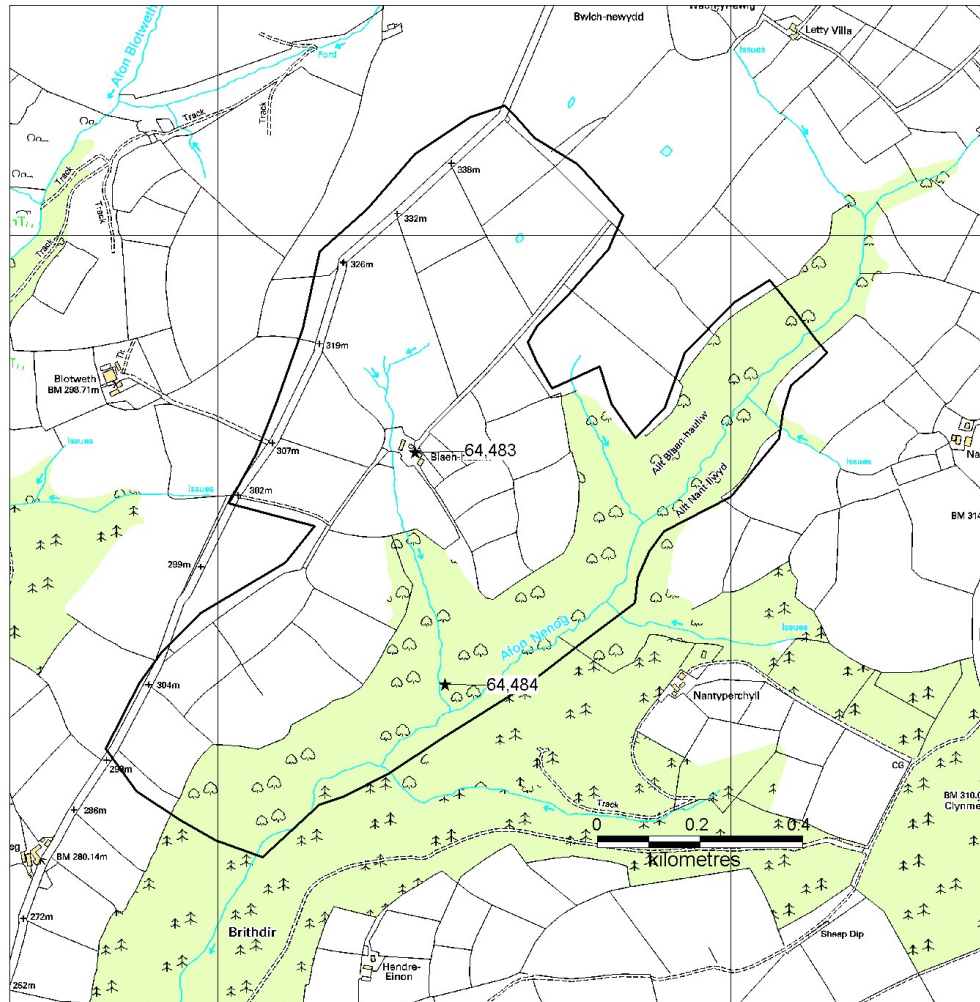
Farm Boundary
 Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)

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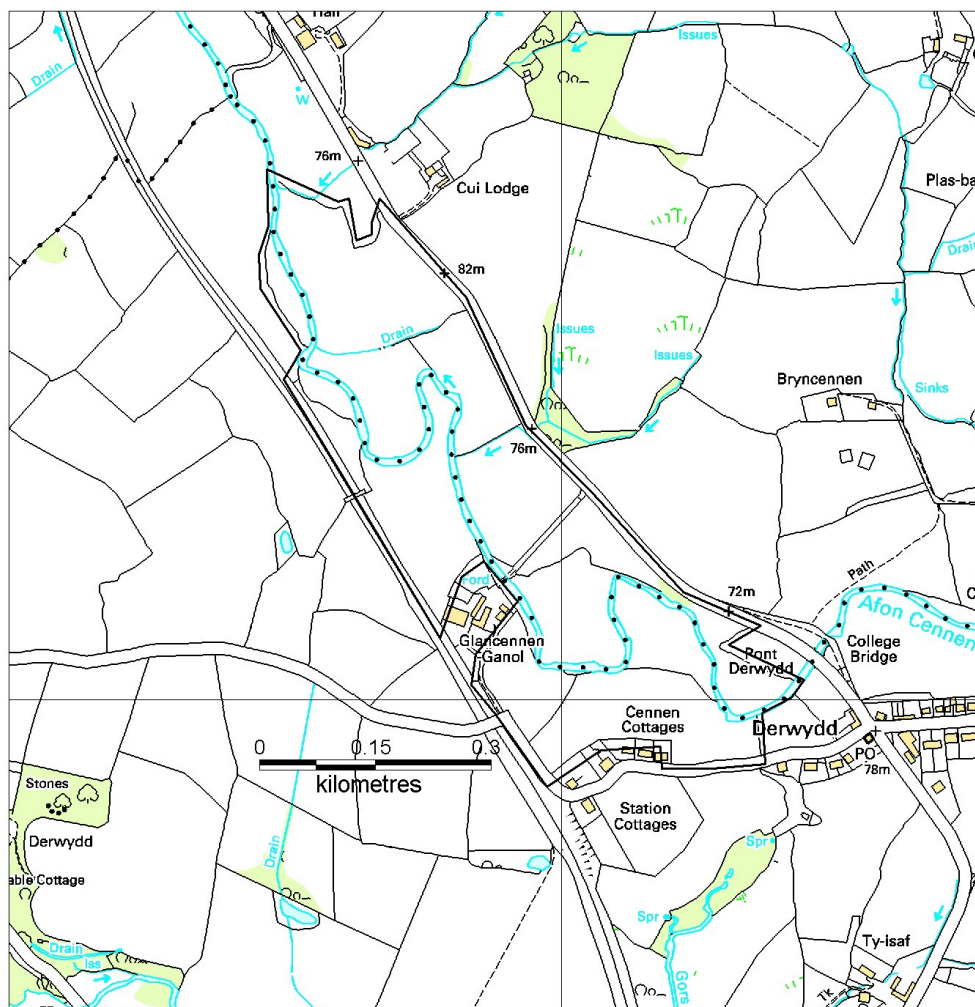


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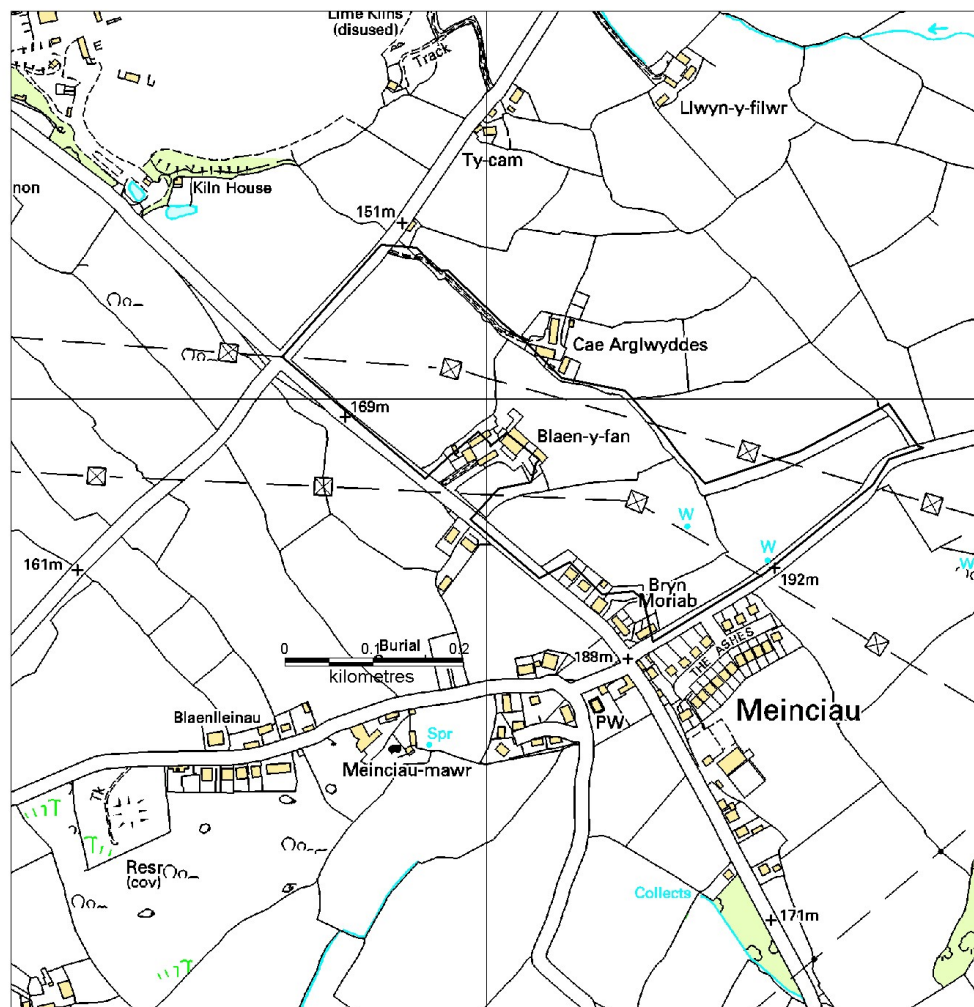
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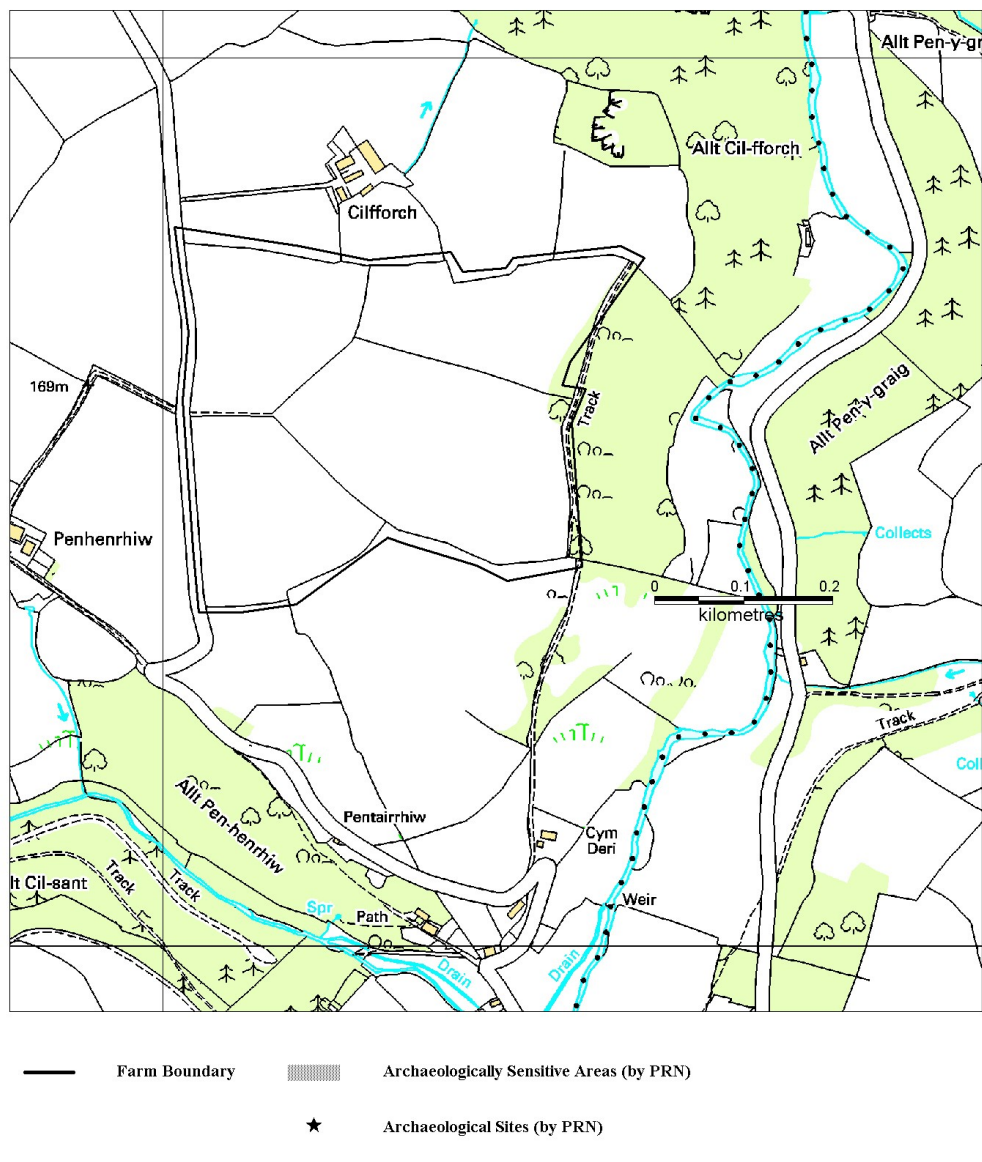
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CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 190 LLANFIHANGEL ABERBYTHYCH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 585189

AREA IN HECTARES: 2294.00

Historic Background

A very large character area bisected by the valley of the Afon Cennen. It occupies the central part of Iscennen commote which, unlike the rest of Cantref Bychan within which it lay, remained nominally independent of Anglo-Norman rule until 1284 when it was acquired by John Giffard. In 1340 it became a member of the Duchy of Lancaster (Rees 1953, xv-xvi). The nature of this tenure may be reflected in the pattern of small- and medium-sized irregular fields which characterise the area, and may be late Medieval in origin, like similar fields in Area 185 towards the west end of the Tywi Valley which appear to pre-date the late 16th-century enclosure of their margins. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation, however, has been recorded in the western part of Area 190. The present pattern of enclosures and farms had nevertheless evolved by at least the early 19th-century, and is depicted as such on the tithe maps of Llanfihangel Aberbythych (1837) and Llanarthne (1848) parishes, though all early settlement is shown as dispersed. Possible ecclesiastical land lies to the west of the area and the origins of Talhardd, a farmstead on the low-lying ground on the west side of the Cennen, are said to be as a 13th century grange of the Premonstratensians at Talley (Rees 1932). However, it is not listed among the former possessions of the abbey in an early 17th-century rental (Owen 1894, 92) which may have been compiled after it had spilt from the estate. The present house is sub-Medieval but a nearby *maerdy* place-name, derived from a reeve or *maer*, may be associated with a monastic holding or the Tregib estate in Area 203 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 17). The only other early gentry house is Derwydd, to the south-east of the area, an important holding which was referred to in 1550 as the home of Rhydderch ap Hywel ap Bedo (Jones 1987, 55), with a garden remodelled in 1889 (Whittle 1999). Cellifor to the west is at least late 17th-century (Jones 1987, 29), now rebuilt, while Caeglas and Cefncethin to the east were established in the late 18th-century (Jones 1987, 20, 27), though none of the latter houses were associated with large estates. A railway was constructed along the Cennen Valley between Ammanford and Llandeilo in 1841 by the GWR, but 19th- and 20th-century development has been limited. Although there was some limestone extraction in the area, immediately beyond to the southeast intensive extraction was undertaken from the 19th century onwards giving rise to a number of settlements. These are concentrated on the fringe of the area, which also features new concentrations at Carmel, Milo and Pant-y-llyn.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Llanfihangel Aberbythych character area rises from the Tywi valley on its northern edge at 20 m above sea level to over 250 m on its southern boundary. It includes the lower valley of the Cennen and the Marlais valley. It essentially consists of land that is entirely enclosed by small- and medium-sized irregular fields with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms. Land-use is almost entirely pasture, with a little arable. The pasture is mostly improved, though there is rougher and rushy ground in the Temple Bar/Milo area. There are numerous small stands of deciduous woodland, particularly on steep valley sides, some of which may be ancient. Field boundaries are of earth banks topped with hedges, and may be late Medieval in origin. Hedges are generally in good condition, though there is evidence of some neglect and dereliction at higher levels. Occasionally hedges are overgrown, and a few possess distinctive trees. At lower levels towards the Tywi valley farms tend to be larger than on higher ground. Superimposed over the ancient settlement pattern of dispersed farms are 19th- and 20th-century villages and hamlets, linear development and dispersed dwellings. Both Milo and Carmel villages have 19th century cores consisting of stone-built dwellings and chapels, but both have late 20th-century additions in the form of dwellings in a variety of styles and materials. Pant-y-llyn is a 19th century row of workers cottages built to serve limestone quarries close by. Dispersed and linear 19th- and 20th-century residential development is mostly strung along the A476 and A483(T) roads, with concentrations close to Llandeilo and at Derwydd.

Recorded archaeology is of relatively low density and low diversity. A group of Bronze Age burnt mounds lie near the Cennen, and there are possible round barrow and standing stone sites. There are two Iron Age hillforts. A Roman road south of Llandeilo may be preserved in the line of field

boundaries. There is an inscribed stone in the eastern part of the area, which appears to relate to the pre-Conquest church at Llandeilo Fawr (Area 202), and possible holy wells and crosses are recorded as place-names. Post-Medieval features include quarries, lime-kilns and possible kilns to the south of the area, bridges, a mill, a possible smithy, a possible pound or fold, and cottages. The railway opened by the GWR in 1841 is still operational and a dominant feature of the landscape.

There are some distinctive buildings. Talhardd farmhouse, which is Grade II listed, is largely sub-Medieval, probably of 16th century date, with 17th century fittings and late-Georgian remodelling; it was once thought to have been moated. Derwydd is Grade II* listed and incorporates an early 16th century house and possibly also the remains of a 15th century house. It contained 18 hearths in 1670 and was thus among the largest in Carmarthenshire at the time (Jones 1987, 55). House and garden are entered as ref. number PGW (Dy) 6 (CAM) in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Whittle, 1999). The far west end of the area is dominated by Paxton's Tower, a Grade II listed folly erected on an outlying part of the Middleton estate in c.1807-10, and there are two Middleton lodges. Farms lying at lower levels towards the Tywi valley tend to be larger than those on higher ground, and their respective buildings are of a higher quality, often with three-storey 18th- and 19th-century dwellings in the Georgian tradition. The stone-built buildings on the larger farms, which are mostly 19th century, are also larger and often arranged in a formal basis around a yard. However, the predominant farmhouse style is the stone-built, slate-roofed dwelling of two storeys and three bays in the vernacular rather than the polite tradition. The masonry, mostly 19th century farm buildings on these smaller holdings tend to smaller and less formally arranged, often consisting of just one range. Most farms have large modern farm buildings associated with them. There are a number of 19th century chapels.

This character area is fairly well defined along its northern edge with on its boundary with Areas 182, 193, 194 and against the town of Llandeilo (Area 202). To the south character areas have yet to be defined, but there is at least in part a clear border between this area and a limestone ridge. To the east there is no clear definition between this area and Areas 197, 203, as all three areas possess similar historic landscape components, but rather a zone of change.

Conservation priorities

Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations.

Ground photograph: 56

Aerial photographs: 33, 39

Blaenblodau Hall Listed Building Record Number: 9742

Grade II listed largely unaltered late-Georgian style small country house.

History

Built in the mid C19 and advertised for let in 1859. The house is first shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey.

Reason

Listed as a largely unaltered late-Georgian style small country house.

References

Ordnance Survey, Carmarthenshire sheet XV.9, 1st ed 1888;
Jones, Francis, *Historic Carmarthenshire Homes and their Families*, 1987, p 9;
The Welshman, 26/8/1859.

Interior

The central hall has a simple late-Georgian staircase. Both ground and first floors have a long transverse room to the rear divided to the middle by sliding partitions. The drawing room ceiling retains simple Adam-style detail. Most chimney pieces have been removed, but 6-panelled doors, panelled shutters and moulded cornices survive to the hall and principal rooms.

Exterior

A small late-Georgian style country house of 2 storeys with basement and attic, and 3 bays. Of rubble stone with flat stone arches to the windows, shallow end pilasters to the main elevations, slate roof on projecting eaves, plastered and part renewed with plasterboard, and roughcast brick end stacks. In the front elevation the central entrance is within a full-height bow, and has a panel door beneath a radial-glazed overlight. The upper storey of the central bay is concealed behind a later pebble-dashed gabled projection, which is open-fronted in the lower storey to form a porch. Windows are 16-pane hornless sashes. The central gable has a single-casement beneath a semi-circular overlight. In front of the L-hand bay are iron railings in front of a lower passage in front of the basement, which has replaced windows. The 2-window gable ends both have 12-pane hornless sashes set to the outer sides. In the L gable end, where the ground level is lower, are 2 inserted basement windows and a later kitchen projection to the R. The 2-bay rear has full-height bow windows with 12-pane sashes.