

# LLETTY IFAN HEN W/11/1996

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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### **CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY**

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### LLETTY IFAN HEN

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report

By

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#### INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features on this farm at the time it was visited by Cambria Archaeology. This information will be used to inform the Tir Gofal Management Agreement for the farm.

#### **Method Statement**

The farm visit consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the farm and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches undertaken include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record, the relevant County Records Office and the National Library of Wales. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a Geographical Information Systems based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a farm visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Due to constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and site notes. Some of the sites may not have been visited. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF FARM

The modern Lletty Ifan Hen farmstead occupies the land of two 18th - 19th century holdings; Lletty Ifan Hen (PRN), the buildings of which were further south than the present farmyard and Penybryn (PRN41603), the buildings of which were located in the area of the farmyard of the modern farmstead of Lletty Ifan Hen. Penybryn appears to have been remodelled and renamed as Lletty Ifan Hen during the mid- to late-19th century. At this time the Penybryn name went out of use and the original Lletty Ifan Hen site became deserted.

The remodelled farmstead is seen clearly on late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. It took the form of a central courtyard surrounded on three sides by buildings and by a high retaining wall built into the hill slope on the fourth (north-western) side. The farmhouse was detached from this building cluster and still stands some 20m to the west. Two further outbuildings also stood immediately to the north-east of the courtyard range.

The farm buildings have been greatly modified during the later 20th century and most of the standing structures here are now large modern buildings. Only two of the 19th century outuildings now stand, those to the north-eastern and south-western side of the courtyard, the latter having been heavily modified and repaired of late. The retaining wall at the north-western side of the courtyard still holds up the bank. The courtyard itself is now a concreted, open area.

The farm is predominantly a sheep farm, with some beef cattle. A large part of the holding is of well improved pasture, with some rough pasture still found on the higher ground of Banc y Garn at the eastern end of the holding. A small area of woodland is present along the Stewi valley at the extreme south-western corner of the farm.

The holding is rich in archaeological remains, including two distinct groupings of Bronze Age funerary monuments, an Iron Age hillfort, several deserted mediaeval or post-mediaeval settlement sites and two lead mine complexes.

### MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The farm is set in an outstandingly beautiful landscape, offering excellent views over the surrounding district, from Pumlumon to the east to Aberystwyth and Aberdyfi on the coastline to the south- and north-west. Lletty Ifan Hen also possesses a wide range of sites and features of archaeological and historic interest. It can be considered to offer many possibilities for heritage and landscape history interpretation if public access is possible in future. Some public footpaths cross the holding, and increased permissive access could open up many of the historic monuments recorded in this report.

Site specific management recommendations are found for each building, site or feature are identified within the Site Gazeteer, but the management recommendations for the most significant monuments are highlighted here.

### PRN 2024 Penycastell Hillfort

There is a need for repair work to be carried out to fill a number of hollows eroding into the earthwork rampart around its circuit, apparently caused by sheep grubbing out shelters. This problem needs to be monitored in future.

### PRN5419 Penycastell Standing Stone

This stone should not be disturbed and future ploughing or other ground breaking activity should not disturb the soil within a radius of 15m of the stone due to the potential that there are undisturbed archaeological features related to the stone beneath the surface.

### PRN9141 Lletty Ifan Hen Metal Mine

It is important that no further removal of spoil material occurs at this mine complex. The grading of the spoil tips from coarse material to the north, through to fine tailings to the south are important evidence of each stage of the mining and ore preparation process.

It is important to highlight the fact that toxic material is probably concentrated in the fine tailings below the crushing mill, at the southern end of the site. This finer spoil material is reasonably stable and is best left undisturbed in order to minimise wind-blown pollution. Trampling by stock animals and disturbance by farm vehicles should be avoided in this area.

The ruinous mine buildings are mostly well beyond repair and it is thought appropriate that they are simply left to decay until they effectively become more stable as ruins. Stone should not be removed. However, there is a need to remove farm refuse such as old fencing posts and wires and the domestic refuse tipped into the crusher house wheelpit.

Consideration might also be given to relocating the modern silage pit which now sits a short distance to the north of the crushing mill in order to avoid future disturbance of the ruins by heavy farm machinery.

The survival of at least one buddle pit, used to wash ground lead ore, on the southern side of the crushing mill complex indicates that there are potentially significant archaeological features buried

around the site and therefore future groundbreaking operations should not be undertaken within the area defined as the mine boundary on the attached map.

### PRN9635 Llechwedd Helyg Metal Mine

Future disturbance of the spoil tips at Llechwedd Helyg must be avoided, particularly where fine tailings survive as these can include toxic materials which should not be disturbed in order to avoid releasing wind-blown pollution.

The relatively well preserved structures of the crushing mill and dressing floor are threatened by a mature ash tree growing in the middle of the dressing floor. This tree should be carefully removed by a tree surgeon with regard paid to avoiding disturbance of structural remains in the process. The continued growth of the tree is likely to destabilise the structural remains and its fall could cause significant damage to the structures here.

### PRN25526 Lletty Ifan Hen Farmstead

The full extent of the surface remains of the original Lletty Ifan Hen site could not be assessed by this archaeological visit, but it is certain that the site has significant archaeological potential. Maintain in current condition. The site should not be disturbed by groundbreaking operations and material should not be removed from the site. If work is to be undertaken on this site please inform Cambria Archaeology.

### PRN26573 Lluest Newydd Farmstead

Lluest Newydd is a well preserved complex, and appears undisturbed. It must be considered to be of considerable archaeological potential as a pre-19th century upland farmstead, possibly originating as an early post-medieval shepherding cottage. All efforts must be made to ensure that the site is maintained undisturbed and free of damaging vegetation or tree growth. Continued sheep grazing is the most effective method of achieving this. This site is considered to be of national importance.

### PRN41575 Lletty IfanHen Platform

Avoid groundbreaking operations across the platform and within 15m of its edges in any direction. Archaeological features related to the use of the platform may survive beneath the surface.

#### PRN41577 Blaenycastell Reservoir

Ideally, the breached dam might be considered for repair and the reservoir allowed to refill.

PRN41578 Blaen Stewi Deserted Rural Settlement

PRN41579 Blaen Stewi Longhouse

PRN41580 Blaen Stewi Sunken Shelter

PRN41581 Blaen Stewi Platform

In order to protect buried archaeological features the area indicated on the attached map should not be subjected to ground breaking works and should not be used as a location for feeding stock. Farm vehicles can cause erosion particularly in wet conditions and should not be driven over this area.

PRN41582 Banc y Garn Cairn

PRN41583 Banc y Garn Standing Stone

PRN41584 Banc y Garn Cairn

In order to protect buried archaeological features and to protect the area of peat bog that has potential palaeo-environmental interest ground breaking works should be undertaken within a 50 metre radius of PRN 41583. In addition, the area should not be driven over by farm vehicles and should not be used as a location for stock feeders. These cairns and standing stone are considered to be of national importance.

### PRN41586 Llechwedd Farmstead

This settlement and the two small field parcels to the south of the dwelling should be left undisturbed and retained as historic landscape features. Stone should not be removed from the building ruins or from the field parcel boundaries.

### PRN41587 Banc Lletty Ifan Hen Cairn

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 20 metres of this cairn and further clearance material should not be dumped here.

PRN41588 Banc Lletty Ifan Hen Cairn

PRN41589 Banc Lletty Ifan Hen Cairn

PRN41590 Banc Lletty Ifan Hen Cairn

PRN41591 Banc Lletty Ifan Hen Round Barrow

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 20 metres of these cairns and no further dumping of clearance debris should occur here. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity and this cairn is probably part of a more extensive cairnfield (PRN41592) which has not been properly defined at this stage, but is considered to be of national importance.

### PRN41592 Banc Lletty Ifan Hen Cairnfield

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 50 metres of the point indicated on the accompanying map. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity, and possibly of more cairns visible on the surface, forming a more extensive cairnfield. The site record was made by a single field worker using rapid recording techniques and the cairnfield cannot therefore be considered to have been properly defined at this stage, but is considered to be of national importance.

### PRN41593 Lletty Ifan Hen Farm Building

It is recommended that the character of this historic farm building is preserved. Structural alterations should be avoided, including the use of non-traditional roofing materials and the blocking up of window and door openings.

#### PRN41599 Lletty Ifan Hen Mine Crushing Mill

The structure is beyond repair but the ruin should be retained as an historic landscape feature. Farm refuse left around the ruin should be removed carefully and the refuse in the wheelpit should also be removed if it is thought safe to do so.

### PRN41600 Lletty Ifan Hen Mine Shaft

The detail of the stone collar of this shaft ideally needs detailed photographic recording in advance of collapse to ensure that a record of its character is preserved. Safety however outweighs any other considerations and the feature needs to be kept well fenced to prevent access by stock and people alike.

### PRN41602 Llechwedd Helyg Mine Crushing Mill

The relatively well preserved structures of the crushing mill and dressing floor are threatened by a mature ash tree growing in the middle of the dressing floor. This tree should be carefully removed by a tree surgeon with regard paid to avoiding disturbance of structural remains in the process. The continued growth of the tree is likely to destablise the structural remains and its fall could cause significant damage to the structures here.

### GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 2024 Site PENYCASTELL Grid Reference SN68958480

Name

Site Type HILLFORT Period Iron Age Site status SAM

### Description

An oval univallate hillfort on a small spur with steep natural defences on the north south and west. The bank and ditch are not continuous with a gap of 40m on the south side. The bank has been shown to be revetted by horizontally laid stone slabs by the Ceredigion Archaeological Survey in 1988. There are signs of erosion of the rampart bank, caused by sheep rubbing and rabbit burrowing.

### Recommendations

This fine Iron Age hillfort is one of the most well-known and obvious historic monuments on the farm. It is a fine viewpoint but not cuurently directly accessible by public footpath. The most pressing management issue pertaining to the monument is the erosion of sections of the defensive ramparts due to sheep rubbing out hollows for shelter around its course. Some rabbit burrowing is also damaging the monument. Action is required to prevent both problems worsening. Ground breaking operations should be avoided within 15 metre of the edge of the monument.

### Site Category A

PRN 5404 Site TY'R BANC Grid Reference SN68038583

Name

Site Type STANDING Period Bronze Age?

STONE?

### Description

A possible Bronze Age standing stone recorded by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in 1961. Not seen during the Tir Gofal farm visit in July 2002, when silage was being cut in the field in question.

#### Recommendations

It is uncertain as to whether this stone survives. Not seen in 2002. No specific recommendations at this time. If anything is known of this site please inform Cambria Archaeology.

Site Category D

5419

Site

PENYCASTELL

Grid Reference

SN69138487

Site Type ST

STANDING

Name Period

STONE

### Description

A small standing stone. It is unusual in its position directly in front of the entrance to Penycastell hillfort (PRN2024).

#### Recommendations

This stone should not be disturbed and future ploughing or other ground breaking activity should not disturb the soil within a radius of 15 metre of the stone due to the potential that there are undisturbed archaeological features related to the stone beneath the surface.

Site Category A

PRN

8741

Site

PENYCASTELL Grid Reference

SN68958475

Site Type S

STANDING

Name Period

riod Bronze Age

STONE

### Description

A standing stone was reported to have stood on a low knoll some 200 metre to the SSE of Penycastell hillfort until it was broken during the 1930s. The knoll can be seen towards the SE corner of the field in which the hillfort stands.

### Recommendations

Although the stone has been lost, the possibility that underground archaeological features associated with it have survived remains. Destoning and ground-breaking operations on the knoll and within 15 metres of its base should be avoided in future.

Site Category D

Grid Reference SN69388494 Site Name LLETTY IFAN 9141 **PRN** 

HEN

Post Mediaeval Period METAL MINE Site Type

Lletty Ifan Hen Mine is a small complex which has experienced considerable disturbance since closure in the late 19th century. (It is shown as a disused mine on the 1891 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map). Some structures still stand, including the ruins of the crushing house and its associated wheelpit and ore-processing area, although the remaining walls are mostly becoming unstable. The wheelpit is half-full of rubbish.

The complex is notable for including evidence for each stage of the ore mining and preparation process. At the northern end of the site are the sites of several mineshafts and their associated development rock tips. One of these shafts remains open and its stone collar is remarkably well preserved. South of the shafts are fragmentary masonry remains of buildings or structures associated with the first stage of separating the ore from the rock, and a large spoil tip of waste rock extends south-eastwards from this part of the complex. Further south again is the crushing mill and dressing floor area, where the final part of the process of separating ore from waste rock was carried out.

Immediately to the east of the crusher complex, the outline of at least one buddle pit, used to wash ground lead ore, is clearly visible. Downslope of the buddle are the fine spoil tips deposited after the final on-site processing of the ore. These tips are likely to contain the most toxic waste on site.

### Recommendations

It is important that no further removal of spoil material occurs at this mine complex. The grading of the spoil tips from coarse material to the north, through to fine tailings to the south are important evidence of each stage of the mining and ore preparation process.

It is important to highlight the fact that toxic material is probably concentrated in the fine tailings below the crushing mill, at the southern end of the site. This finer spoil material is reasonably stable and is best left undisturbed in order to minimise wind-blown pollution. Trampling by stock animals and disturbance by farm vehicles should be avoided in this area.

The ruinous mine buildings are mostly well beyond repair and it is thought appropriate that they are simply left to decay until they effectively become more stable as much reduced ruins. However, there is a need to remove farm refuse such as old fencing posts and wires and the domestic refuse tipped into the crusher house wheelpit.

The survival of at least one buddle pit on the southern side of the crushing mill complex indicates that there are potentially significant archaeological features buried around the site and therefore future groundbreaking operations should not be undertaken within the area defined as the mine boundary on the attached map.

Consideration might also be given to relocating the modern silage pit which now sits a short distance to the north of the crushing mill in order to avoid future disturbance of the ruins by heavy farm machinery.

### Site Category B

PRN	9144	Site Name	CWMSYMLOG	Grid Reference	SN69548496;
					SN69608470
Site Type	LEAT	Period	Post Mediaeval		

### Description

A leat which conveyed water from Afon Stewi to Cwmsymlog Mine. It can be traced on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map from Llety Evan-Hen Mine to Cwmsymlog Mine.

This leat appears to have originated from a spring or watercourse within the area of the Lletty Ifan Hen Mine (PRN9141). The field in which it originated has been much improved and no substantial surface evidence for the leat was seen during the Tir Gofal visit.

#### Recommendations

The section of this leat which crossed the land of Lletty Ifan Hen is no longer visisble. However there is potential for buried remains to survive.

### Site Category B

PRN	9145	Site	BANC Y	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN71218485;
		Name	GARN		SN69578472
Site Type	LEAT	Period	Post Mediaeval		

#### Description

A leat built by John Horridge in 1840 from Afon Leri to Cwmsebon Lead mine. The section of this leat which crosses Lletty Ifan Hen farm has been largely lost due to the construction of a modern farm trackway on the northern slope of Banc y Garn and land improvements on the western side of the same hill. Several hundred metres of the leat course appear to have survived to the east of the point where the trackway diverges from the leat course at SN708851.

#### Recommendations

The section of leat that survives east of SN708851 should not be disturbed but retained as an historic landscape feature.

### Site Category B

PRN 9627 Site LLETTY Grid Reference SN6984
Name IFAN HEN

Site Type LEAT SYSTEM Period Post Mediaeval

### Description

This record applies to the water system supplying the Lletty Ifan Hen and Cwmsymlog Lead Mines.

### Recommendations

This leat system does not now survive intact, but those sections which are identifiable should be retained as historic landscape features. See PRNs 9144-5.

Site Category B

PRN 9635 Site Name LLECHWEDD Grid Reference SN68408483

HELYG; WILLOW BANK

Site Type METAL MINE Period Post Mediaeval

### Description

Llechwedd Helyg Mine is a small mine complex which shows signs of having had some disturbance of its spoil tips in recent years. However, the core of the mine, including the crushing mill and ore-processing area still have significant structural remains and much of the spoil tip area survives.

The crushing mill and dressing floors are the most significant standing structures and remain in reasonably good condition.

### Recommendations

Future disturbance of the spoil tips at Llechwedd Helyg must be avoided, particularly where fine tailings survive as these can include toxic materials which should not be disturbed in order to avoid releasing wind-blown pollution. Ground breaking operations in general should be avoided within the vicinity of the mine.

The relatively well preserved structures of the crushing mill and dressing floor are threatened by a mature ash tree growing in the middle of the dressing floor. This tree should be carefully removed by a tree surgeon with regard paid to avoiding disturbance of structural remains in the process. The continued growth of the tree is likely to destabilise the structural remains and its fall could cause significant damage to the structures here.

### Site Category B

13215

Site

LLECHWEDD Grid Reference SN684848

Site Type

**DESERTED** 

Name Period

**HELYG** Mediaeval?:

RURAL

Post

**SETTLEMENT** 

Mediaeval?

### Description

When visited in July 2002, it was felt that two building platforms were visible here. The largest, close to the eastern edge of the field, measured c.35 metres x 13 metres. 20 metres to the west was a smaller platform, c.22 metres x 12 metres. Both are very denuded and difficult to see. It is possible that they are natural features, but the proximity of the now deserted site of the 18th-19th century Lletty Ifan Hen farmstead (PRN25526) immediately to the east suggests that these platforms may be the site of an earlier focus of settlement.

### Recommendations

Although this field has been ploughed over many decades in order to protect potential surviving buried archaeology the area within 15 metres of the edge of these platforms should not be ploughed, subjected to any other intrusive activity and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock

**Site Category** D

25526

Site Name LLETTY IFAN HEN Grid Reference SN684848

Site Type

**FARMSTEAD** 

Period

Mediaeval?; Post Mediaeval

This is the site of the 18th and 19th century settlement known as Lletty Ifan Hen. There are fragmentary structural remains of at least one building readily identifiable, as well as a number of small paddocks or garden plots adjacent to it. Vegetation made examination of the whole site impossible.

The single building identified was located on a man-made platform, parallel to the contour, measuring 14 metres x 6 metres at most, on an east-west long axis. Only the wall base of the southern lateral wall survived (the front wall). The northern lateral wall stood up to 1.75 metres high and was built against the bank at the back edge of the platform, which is also part of a field boundary. The eastern gable end wall is all but lost, but the western gable end is represented by a 1.25 metres high grassy mound (suggesting that it possibly includes the remains of a collapsed chimney or inglenook fireplace). A drystone buttress can be seen in place against the outside of the western gable end. The inner face of the northern wall still has traces of limewash render and perhaps lime mortar cementing the stones together.

This farmstead appears on the 1778 Lisburne Estate map of the area and was still occupied at the time of the tithe survey of the mid-19th century. It does not appear on the 1891 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map, by which time it had apparently been demolished and the name Lletty Ifan Hen transferred to its present location (which is the site of a farmstead known as Penybryn on the 1778 estate map and the parish tithe map).

The origins of this settlement are not known, but the presence of a possible deserted settlement site immediately to the west (PRN13215) opens the possibility that there was an even earlier Lletty Ifan Hen located nearby.

## Recommendations

The full extent of the surface remains of the original Lletty Ifan Hen site could not be assessed by this visit, but it is certain that the site has significant archaeological potential. Maintain in current condition. The site should not be disturbed by groundbreaking operations and material should not be removed from the site. If work is to be undertaken on this site please inform Cambria Archaeology.

В **Site Category** 

PRN 26573 Site LLUEST Grid Reference SN69778466
Name NEWYDD
Site Type FARMSTEAD Period Post Mediaeval

### Description

Site of upland farmstead, now abandond and ruined. The complex includes the dwelling, now reduced to wall-bases; faint earthwork traces of a rectangular field parcel adjoining the northern side of the dwelling; a garden plot to the southern side of the dwelling,

38189

Site

BANC Y

Grid Reference SN70788451

Site Type

STONE

Name

**GARN** 

Period

General

Description

A natural boulder presumably used as a boundary marker, as recorded on 1906 Ordnance Survey map.

### Recommendations

Leave in present position

Site Category

**PRN** 

38190

Site

BANC Y **GARN** 

Grid Reference SN7088444

Grid Reference SN68168491

Site Type

**ROCK** 

Name

Period

General

Description

A natural rock, used as a boundary marker, as recorded on 1906 OS map. Not seen by 2002 Tir Gofal survey, but presumably similar to 38189.

### Recommendations

Leave in situ if found

Site Category

**PRN** 

41572

C

Site

LLETTY

IFAN HEN

Site Type

SPOIL TIP?

Name **Period** 

Post Mediaeval

Description

An area of loose stone c.15 metres x 15 metres, close to the edge of the Afon Stewi. It may be a spoil tip resulting from trial mining activity associated with nearby Llechwedd Helyg lead mine, or earlier activity. Some fragments of white quartz are included in the spoil.

#### Recommendations

Maintain as visible historic landscape feature. Do not remove material.

Site Category

41573

Site

LLECHWEDD Grid Reference SN68638485

Name

**HELYG** 

Site Type

MINE SHAFT

Period

Post Mediaeval

### Description

Collapsed mine shaft which survives as a circular depression with a small spoil tip on its NW side and a linear trial trench cut into the slope above it to the south. The whole site is now grassed over and appears stable. Presumably, this shaft is part of the nearby Llechwedd Helyg mine complex.

#### Recommendations

This feature should be retained undisturbed as an historic landscape feature. Infilling of the shaft cone and the trial trench should be avoided and the spoil mound should not be disturbed.

Site Category

PRN

41574

Site Name LLETTY

Grid Reference SN68748492;

BOUNDARY

Period

**IFAN HEN** Post Mediaeval SN68728481

Site Type

BANK

#### Description

A denuded earthwork boundary bank with occasional rowan trees growing along its course. The bank is c.2 metres wide, with a parallel ditch c.1 metre wide along its eastern side. A trackway, which may be a later addition, follows the eastern side of the bank for the southern half of its length. This bank may well be a recent feature, it does not appear on any map before the Ordnance Survey Pathfinder series of the 1980s.

### Recommendations

Retain as an historic landscape feature

Site Category C

PRN 41575 Site LLETTY Grid Reference SN68868499
Name IFAN HEN
Site Type PLATFORM Period Mediaeval?;
Post
Mediaeval?

### Description

A grassy platform, measuring 11 metre NW-SE x 6 metres. It is located at the foot of a steep slope, in a sheltered *cwm*. It appears to be rectangular or sub-rectangular in shape. There are no signs of any building on the platform.

#### Recommendations

Avoid groundbreaking operations across the platform and within 5 metre of its edges in any direction. Archaeological features related to the use of the platform may survive beneath the surface.

Site Category B

PRN 41576 Site BLAEN Y Grid Reference SN69248475
Name CASTELL
Site Type RESERVOIR Period Post Mediaeval

#### Description

One of two mine reservoirs that formerly supplied water to the Cwmsymlog Mine via a leat (PRN9144). The dam is intact and still retains water.

### Recommendations

Maintain as an historic landscape feature.

Site Category B

41577

Site

**BLAEN Y** 

Grid Reference SN69308474

Name

CASTELL

Site Type

RESERVOIR

Period

Post Mediaeval

Description

One of two mine reservoirs which formerly supplied the Cwmsymlog Mine via a leat (PRN9144). The dam is breached and the reservoir is now dry.

#### Recommendations

Ideally, the breached dam might be considered for repair and the reservoir allowed to refill. If work is to be undertaken on this site please inform Cambria Archaeology.

**Site Category** В

**PRN** 

41578

Site

BLAEN

Grid Reference SN70008471

Site Type

DESERTED

Name Period **STEWI** 

Mediaeval?;

RURAL

**SETTLEMENT** 

**Post** 

Mediaeval?

Description

A deserted settlement site comprising a two-celled longhouse (PRN41579), a sunken shelter (PRN41580) and a platform (PRN41581). The complex survives only as very faint earthworks and is barely discernible. The combination of a dwelling, ancillary building and platform in a sheltered upland valley setting suggests that this may be an early post-medieval lluest (shepherding cottage) site. This is a very ephemeral site in terms of its surface remains but may have significant archaeological remains associated with mediaeval or early post mediaeval settlement and may be considered to be of national importance.

#### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features the area indicated on the attached map including PRNs 41578, 41579, 41580 and 41581 should not be subjected to ground breaking works and should not be used as a location for feeding stock. Farm vehicles can cause erosion particularly in wet conditions and should not be driven over this area. Continued grazing of the land by sheep is an ideal management regime for this site.

**Site Category** 

PRN 41579 Site BLAEN Grid Reference SN70058468
Name STEWI
Site Type LONGHOUSE Period Mediaeval?;
Post
Mediaeval?

### Description

A longhouse which survives only as a faint, grassed over earthwork. However, the outline of at two cells on different levels - a *penllawr* and *isllawr* - typical of an early longhouse, are visible. The wall bases are less than 0.2m high and the overall measurement appears to be 11 metres long N-S x 5 metres wide.

#### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features the area indicated on the attached map, including PRNs 41578, 41579, 41580 and 41581, should not be subjected to ground breaking works and should not be used as a location for feeding stock. Farm vehicles can cause erosion particularly in wet conditions and should not be driven over this area. Continued grazing of the land by sheep is an ideal management regime for this site.

### Site Category A

PRN	41580	Site	BLAEN	Grid Reference	SN70008467
		Name	STEWI		
Site Type	SUNKEN	Period	Mediaeval?;		
	SHELTER		Post		
			Mediaeval?		

#### Description

Sunken shelter associated with the nearby longhouse PRN41579. A sunken shelter was probably a underground cool-store associated with the storage of dairy produce or other foodstuff. It appears only as a shallow trench, measuring 10 metres long on a N-S axis x 5 metres wide overall, with some reed growth in the depression.

#### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features the area indicated on the attached map including PRNs 41578, 41579, 41580 and 41581 should not be subjected to ground breaking works and should not be used as a location for feeding stock. Farm vehicles can cause erosion particularly in wet conditions and should not be driven over this area. Continued grazing of the land by sheep is an ideal management regime for this site.

### Site Category A

Site

**BLAEN** STEWI

Grid Reference SN69998477

Site Type **PLATFORM** 

Name Period

Mediaeval?:

Post

Mediaeval?

### Description

A grassy, earthwork platform associated with a longhouse (PRN41579) and a sunken shelter (PRN41580). It measures 7 metres long N-S x 5 metres E-W. There is no surface evidence of any structure on the platform.

#### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features the area indicated on the attached map including PRNs 41578, 41579, 41580 and 41581 should not be subjected to ground breaking works and should not be used as a location for feeding stock. Farm vehicles can cause erosion particularly in wet conditions and should not be driven over this area. Continued grazing of the land by sheep is an ideal management regime for this site.

#### **Site Category** Α

PRN

41582

Site

BANC Y

Grid Reference SN70498489

Site Type CAIRN Name

Period

**GARN** Bronze Age

### **Description**

A small stone cairn, c.2 metres in diameter. Lies 10m W of a standing stone (PRN41583). It appears undisturbed.

#### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features and to protect the area of peat bog close to PRN 41583 that has potential palaeo-environmental interest ground breaking works should be undertaken within a 50 metre radius of PRN 41583. In addition, the area should not be driven over by farm vehicles and should not be used as a location for stock feeders. The cairns (PRNs 41582 and 41584) and standing stone (PRN 41583) are considered to be of national importance. PRN41583 and cairn PRN41584.

### Site Category

PRN	41583	Site	BANC Y	Grid Reference	SN70508489
Site Type	STANDING STONE	Name Period	GARN Bronze Age		

### Description

A small standing stone, c.0.75 metres high x 1 metre N-S x 0.75 metres E-W. The stone stands on top of a small hillock, and is very visible. 10m to the west, at the foot of the hillock, is a small cairn (PRN41582). 40 metres to the east is another cairn (PRN41584). A small area of peat bog lies just to the south west, which is of potential palaeo-environmental interest.

#### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features and to protect the area of peat bog that has potential palaeo-environmental interest ground breaking works should be undertaken within a 50 metre radius of PRN 41583. In addition, the area should not be driven over by farm vehicles and should not be used as a location for stock feeders. The cairns (PRNs 41582 and 41584) and standing stone (PRN 41583) are considered to be of national importance. PRN41583 and cairn PRN41584.

Site Category A

PRN	41584	Site	BACN Y	Grid Reference	SN70558490
Site Type	CAIRN	Name Period	GARN Bronze Age		

### Description

An oval cairn, measuring 7 metres E-W x 4 metres N-S. It lies 40m E of standing stone PRN41583. The cairn appears undisturbed.

### Recommendations

In order to protect buried archaeological features and to protect the area of peat bog close to PRN 41583 that has potential palaeo-environmental interest ground breaking works should be undertaken within a 50 metre radius of PRN 41583. In addition, the area should not be driven over by farm vehicles and should not be used as a location for stock feeders. The cairns (PRNs 41582 and 41584) and standing stone (PRN 41583) are considered to be of national importance. PRN41583 and cairn PRN41584.

Site Category A

41585

Site

LLAWR Y

Grid Reference SN70378530

Site Type

TRIAL MINE

Name Period

CWM BACH Post Mediaeval

### Description

An apparent trial working associated with the nearby Llawr y Cwm Bach Lead Mine (PRN5497), comprising an elongated cut into the surface at the bottom of the valley slope

### Recommendations

This feature should be retained undisturbed as an historic landscape feature.

Site Category C

PRN

41586

Site

**DDU** 

LLECHWEDD Grid Reference SN69938545

Site Type

**FARMSTEAD** 

Name Period

Post Mediaeval

### Description

The ruins of a small farmstead which was shown as an abandoned settlement by the 1891 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map. The ruins are sheltered by a copse of mature deciduous trees and appear to include a dwelling and associated garden or enclosure boundaries. No detailed survey was made of the ruins by the 2002 Tir Gofal visit, but it was noted that the stone walls of the dwelling have all collapsed. The farmstead does not appear on the Lisburne Estate Map of 1778, nor the 1833 Original Surveyors Drawings of the Ordnance Survey, so appears to have been of mid-19th century foundation and not to have been occupied for more than one or two generations.

#### Recommendations

This settlement and the two small field parcels to the south of the dwelling should be left undisturbed and retained as historic landscape features. Stone should not be removed from the building ruins or from the field parcel boundaries.

**Site Category** В

41587

Site

BANC

Grid Reference SN69348509

Name

LLETTY

IFAN HEN

Site Type

**CAIRN** 

Period

Bronze Age

#### Description

A clearance cairn of fairly large stones has been dumped on top of this prominent hillock, partly covering an earlier funerary cairn of c.2.5 metres diameter (visible) and less than 0.25 metres high. The cairn is in a prominent position and intervisible with other Bronze Age monuments to the west and, potentially, in other directions.

#### Recommendations

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 15 metres of this cairn and further clearance material should not be dumped here.

Site Category

**PRN** 

41588

Site

**BANC** 

Grid Reference SN69048530

Name

LLETTY

IFAN HEN

Site Type

CAIRN

Period

Bronze Age

### Description

A small funerary cairn, c.3 metres in diameter and less than 0.2 metres high, partly obscured by the stones of what appears to be a recent clearance cairn. This cairn lies 60 metres NE of the larger round barrow PRN41591 and two other cairns PRNs 41589 & 41590.

#### Recommendations

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 20 metres of this cairn and no further dumping of clearance debris should occur here. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity and this cairn is probably part of a more extensive cairnfield (PRN41592) which has not been properly defined at this stage, but the cairn can be considered to be of national importance.

Site Category

41589

Site

BANC

Grid Reference SN68998521

Name

LLETTY

IFAN HEN

Site Type **CAIRN**  Period

Bronze Age

### Description

A small funerary cairn, 3m in diameter and less than 0.2 metres high. The stones of the cairn protrude through the grassy surface. It lies 30 metres to the SE of the larger round barrow PRN41591 and 10 metres further to the SSE is another small cairn PRN41590.

#### Recommendations

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 20 metres of this cairn and no dumping of clearance debris should occur here. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity and this cairn is probably part of a more extensive cairnfield (PRN41592) which has not been properly defined at this stage, but the cairn can be considered to be of national importance.

Site Category Α

**PRN** 

41590

Site

**BANC** 

Grid Reference SN68988520

Name

LLETTY

IFAN HEN

Site Type CAIRN

Period

Bronze Age

#### Description

A small funerary cairn, 3 metres in diameter and less than 0.2 metres high. The stones of the cairn protrude through the grassy surface. It lies 10 metres S of cairn PRN41589 and 40 metres SSE of round barrow PRN41591.

#### Recommendations

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 20 metres of this cairn and no dumping of clearance debris should occur here. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity and this cairn is probably part of a more extensive cairnfield (PRN41592) which has not been properly defined at this stage, but the cairn can be considered to be of national importance.

Site Category Α

41591

Site

**BANC** 

Grid Reference SN68958527

Name

LLETTY IFAN HEN

Site Type ROUND

**BARROW** 

Period

Bronze Age

### Description

A round barrow on a prominent hillock which affords excellent views in all directions and makes the barrow intervisible with others in the area. The barrow has been partly robbed out, but is still an impressive monument. It appears to have been up to 13 metres in diameter originally, although now an oval mound measuring some 12 metres x 9 metres survives, still standing up to 1.5 metres high in places, with its centre quarried out and considerable piles of disturbed stone within and around the mound. Some large blocks alongside the monument may be derived from more recent field clearance activity. The relationship of the barrow with the nearby cairns PRNs 41588-90 suggests that it may have been the focus of a cairn cemetery. Other cairns may survive in the immediate vicinity, but were not noted during the Tir Gofal visit of 2002.

#### Recommendations

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 20 metres of this barrow and no further dumping of clearance debris should occur here. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity and this barrow is probably part of a more extensive cairnfield (PRN41592) which has not been properly defined at this stage, but the barrow can be considered to be of national importance.

**Site Category** 

**PRN** 

41592

Site

BANC LLETTY Grid Reference SN69008522

Name

IFAN HEN

Site Type CAIRNFIELD

Period

Bronze Age

#### Description

This cairnfield contains at least three small stone cairns and a larger round barrow. Further detailed examination of the immediate vicinity may identify more cairns, but some destoning of this area of former rough pasture may have led to the loss of some features.

#### Recommendations

No groundbreaking operations or stone clearance operations should take place within 50 metres of the point indicated on the accompanying map. There is a high likelihood of further buried archaeological features in the vicinity, and possibly of more cairns visible on the surface, forming a more extensive cairnfield. The site record was made by a single field worker using rapid recording techniques and the cairnfield cannot therefore be considered to have been properly defined at this stage, but the cairnfield can be considered to be of national importance.

Site Category Α

41593

Site

LLETTY

Grid Reference SN68608526

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name

IFAN HEN

Site Type FARM BUILDING

Period

Post Mediaeval

### Description

A long, composite building which has a NW-SE long axis. It originally formed the NE side of a 3-sided farmbuilding range around a central courtyard, apparently built after the original farmstead of Penybryn was replaced and modernised by the relocated Lletty Ifan Hen farmstead. One of the Penybryn farmstead buildings stood in approximately the same location and some of its fabric may have been incorporated into this building, although the fabric was not examined closely enough to support this conjecture.

At the NW end of this building is a two storey section, presumably the upper floor was originally a grain store, and this is accessed via a door through the gable end (the lower half of NW gable end wall abuts a revetment wall which divides the farmyard from a trackway which passes at a higher level along the western side of the farmyard). A single-storey cowshed forms the central section of the building range, apparently being an integral part of the two-storey section of the range and not added at a later date. However, a further single-storey extension has been added at a later date to the SE gable of this cowshed.

Each section of the building range has door and window openings which are topped by buff-yellow brickwork arches, suggesting them to have been built in the mid- or later-19th century. This part of the building range around the farmyard certainly appears on the 1891 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map, although it is not present on earlier maps such as the 1833 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings. It appears that the SE side of the later 19th century range has been lost and only part of the SW side remains (PRN41594).

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the character of this historic farm building is preserved. Structural alterations should be avoided, including the use of non-traditional roofing materials and the blocking up of window and door openings.

Site Category B

41594

Site

LLETTY

Grid Reference SN68588525

Name

IFAN HEN

Site Type

FARM BUILDING

Period

Post Mediaeval

### Description

A modified farm building which formed the SW side of the three sided building range set around the central courtyard of the late-19th century Lletty Ifan Hen farmstead. Modern concrete blocks have been used to raise the wallplate level and block up the window openings onto the courtyard, and modern roofing materials used.

#### Recommendations

This building has been substantially modified by modern repairs and alterations. Further alterations should seek to use traditional materials and techniques.

Site Category

 $\mathbf{C}$ 

PRN

41595

Site

LLETTY

Grid Reference SN68568526

Site Type

**FARMHOUSE** 

Name Period

IFAN HEN Post Mediaeval

### Description

Mid- to late-19th century farmhouse, detached from a planned outbuilding range set around a central courtyard to the east of the house. Built after the original Ordnance Survey survey of 1833. Remains occupied and well maintained.

#### Recommendations

As an occupied dwelling this building falls outside the scheme.

**Site Category** 

В

41596

Site

LLETTY IFAN HEN Grid Reference SN67908572

Site Type

**ROUND** BARROW?

Name Period

Post Mediaeval

Description

This feature was not closely examined as silage was being cut in the field at the time of inspection. A grassy mound, similar in appearance to a well-preserved round barrow, was observed. However, it is though probable that it is a natural feature.

#### Recommendations

Any ground breaking operations should be preceded by consultation with Cambria Archaeology. Further management advice can then be supplied.

Site Category D

**PRN** 

41597

Site

LLETTY

Grid Reference SN69328502

Name

MAGAZINE

Period

IFAN HEN Post Mediaeval

### Description

Site Type

The shattered ruins of the powder magazine of the nearby Lletty Ifan Hen Lead Mine. This small building is ruined beyond all recognition, with only fragmentary walling still upstanding, surrounded by much collapsed stone debris.

#### Recommendations

This structure is very ruinous and well beyond repair. However, its ruins should be retained as an historic landscape feature. The stones should not be cleared.

**Site Category** 

**PRN** 

41598

Site

LLETTY IFAN HEN Grid Reference SN69248481

Site Type

**QUARRY** 

C

Name Period

Post Mediaeval

#### Description

A small, disused quarry which may be related to the nearby Lletty Ifan Hen Lead Mine complex.

#### Recommendations

Maintain as visible historic landscape feature. Do not infill or remove spoil tips.

Site Category

41599

Site

LLETTY

Grid Reference SN69388489

Name

IFAN HEN MINE

Site Type CRUSHING MILL

Period

Post Mediaeval

#### Description

The very ruinous crushing mill complex of Lletty Ifan Hen Mine still has the recognisable remains of the crusher house and the wheelpit that housed the waterwheel that provided motive power for the crusher machinery. The surviving masonry appears unstable and some recent collapse is evident. Farm and other refuse has been left on the site and the wheelpit in particular is full of dumped rubbish

#### Recommendations

The structure is beyond repair but the ruin should be retained as an historic landscape feature. Farm refuse left around the ruin should be removed carefully and the refuse in the wheelpit should also be removed if it is thought safe to do so.

Site Category

**PRN** 

41600

В

Site

LLETTY

Grid Reference SN69488498

Name

IFAN HEN MINE

Site Type

MINE SHAFT

Period

Post Mediaeval

#### Description

The only open shaft at the Lletty Ifan Hen Lead Mine. The stone collar of this shaft is remarkably well preserved.

#### Recommendations

The detail of the stone collar of this shaft ideally needs detailed photographic recording in advance of collapse to ensure that a record of its character is preserved. Safety however outweighs any other considerations and the feature needs to be kept well fenced to prevent access by stock and people alike.

Site Category B

41601

Site

**BANC** 

Grid Reference SN68918520

Name

LLETTY IFAN HEN

Site Type **QUARRY**  Period

Post Mediaeval

### Description

A small, disused quarry. Presumably exploited for very localised use.

#### Recommendations

Maintain as visible historic landscape feature. Do not infill or remove spoil tips.

Site Category C

PRN

41602

Site

LLECHWEDD Grid Reference SN68488480

Name

**HELYG** 

MINE

Site Type

CRUSHING MILL

Period

Post Mediaeval

### Description

The stone built elements of the Crushing Mill and Dressing Floor complex at Llechwedd Helyg are still in relatively good condition

### Recommendations

The relatively well preserved structures of the crushing mill and dressing floor are threatened by a mature ash tree growing in the middle of the dressing floor. This tree should be carefully removed by a tree surgeon with regard paid to avoiding disturbance of structural remains in the process. The continued growth of the tree is likely to destablise the structural remains and its fall could cause significant damage to the structures here.

Site Category В PRN 41603 Site PENYBRYN Grid Reference SN68608525

Name

Site Type FARMSTEAD Period Mediaeval?;

Post Mediaeval

### Description

Penybryn farmstead is identified on 18th and 19th century maps. The farmhouse was located in the area of the farmyard of the modern farmstead of Lletty Ifan Hen. Its lands roughly occupied the northern half of the modern Lletty Ifan Hen. Penybryn appears to have been remodelled and renamed as Lletty Ifan Hen during the mid- to late-19th century and the name Penybryn went out of use.

### Recommendations

Potential for buried archaeolgoical remains associated with the farmhouse survive. Please contact Cambria Archaeology prior to any groundworks in this area.

Site Category C

### SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

### SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

### LB1, LB2\* & LB2 - Listed Building 1, 2\* & 2

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### **HLW** - Historic Landscapes of Wales

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

#### PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

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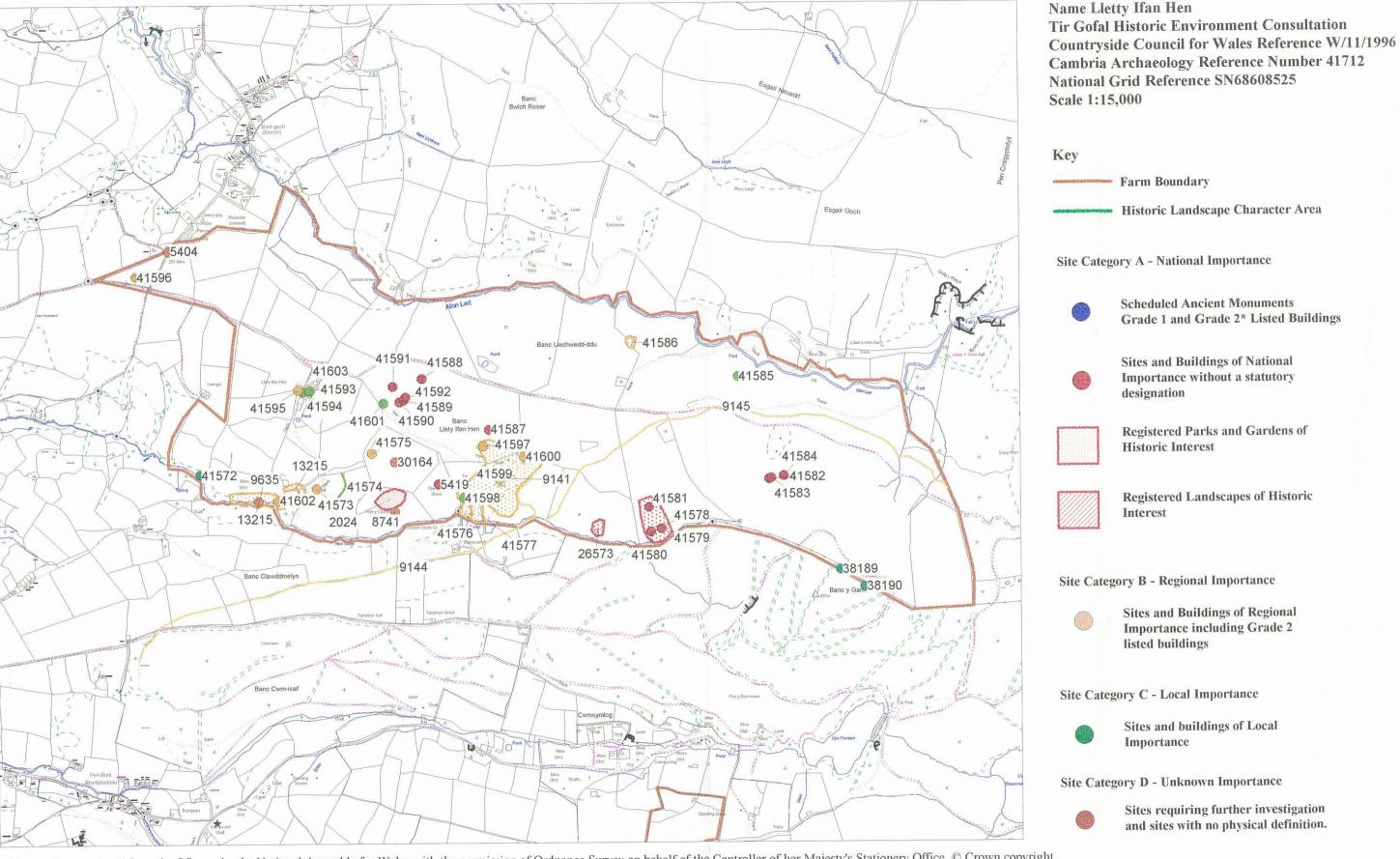
### LLETTY IFAN HEN FARM

### **REPORT NUMBER 2002/65**

July 2002

This report has been prepared by Paul Sambrook
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Signature Date
This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.
Position: Principal Archaeological Officer
Signature LOWITE Just Date 14/08/02

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report



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