

TYNANT FARM

W/11/2978

Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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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 System 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 time constraints recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites 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 four parcels of land that make up the Ty Nant holding are situated within several recognised Historic Landscape Character Areas for upland Ceredigion. Descriptions of these areas are included as appendices to this report.

Parcel A

Consisting of the Ty Nant farmstead, and pasture fields to the east, bounded to the south by Afon Cynerniog, and to the north by Nant Bwlchydderwen. The southern portion of this land parcel is located within the Afon Leri Landscape characterisation area, and to the east is bordered by the Cyneiniog Landscape character Area. The settlement pattern and associated field systems probably date from the later middle ages. Field boundaries largely consist of earth banks, decayed stone walls and derelict hedgerows. Many boundaries have been superseded by stockproof fencing.

Parcel B

Cyneiniog Farmstead, itself is under different ownership, but the fields of improved pasture that surround the farmstead form 'Parcel B'. The southern edge of the parcel is defined by the Nant y Maes-mawr watercourse, while the north west and north east limits are defined by forestry plantations. Original banked and walled field boundaries, have deteriorated are now mostly fenced.

Parcel C

Consisting of rough grazing uplands to the north-east of Parcel A. This area was unenclosed land until relatively recently but is now divided up with stockproof fencing. This area contains extensive remains of mining activity associated with the Bwlch y Gareg, Esgair-hir and Esgair-fraith Mines. Part of this parcel of land is within the Esgair-fraith Landscape Character Area.

Parcel D

Consisting of pasture land and scrub to the west of the Afon Leri. The land is located within the Waun Wyddyl and Bont-Goch Historic Landscape Character Areas. There are extensive remains of the Cefn Gwyn Mine along the Afon Leri that are overgrown with gorse and bracken. Other land in the area was unenclosed until the late 19th century when it was divided into large fields with earth banks and hedges. These boundaries have mostly deteriorated and are superseded with stockproof fencing. Steeper hill slopes are mostly rough grazing, with improved pasture on the higher ground.

MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

5626

5256 Esgair-hir / Esgair-fraith Mine

It is recommended that all the mine working remains are maintained as visible landscape features. The majority of earthwork features are grassed over and are relatively stable. There appears to be little or no active damage occurring to these features from plant growth, livestock or other activities. No material should be removed from the spoil tips and current management should be continued. The standing remains of masonry buildings are generally prone to gradual deterioration. Ideally these remains should be recorded archaeologically in their present condition and consolidated to prevent further deterioration. The extensive remains of the Esgair-hir mine that are evident in the landscape should be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities.

9132 Cefn Gwyn Mine

It is recommended that all remains be maintained as visible historic landscape features. The remains of masonry buildings are generally prone to gradual deterioration. Ideally these remains should be recorded archaeology in their present condition and where appropriate, consolidated to prevent further deterioration. Clearance of vegetation from the remains would help to delay further deterioration. Since the site is located near to a public footpath, with a bridge crossing the river at the northern end of the mine complex, the remains of the mine could be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities. Alternatively, measures to more effectively prevent public access could be considered. No stone or material from spoil tips should be removed from the site.

47565 Brynyfedwen Fawr

The upstanding masonry of this complex of buildings is at general risk of further deterioration. Consolidation of the upstanding masonry should be considered. No stone should be removed from the site and it should not be used as a location for feeding livestock. Current usage of the site does not appear to be adversely affecting the remains.

47569 Ffynnonwared

This feature may be at general risk of further deterioration. Any trees or other vegetation causing damage to the remains should be cut back and treated to prevent re-growth. Consolidation of upstanding masonry should be considered. No stone should be removed from the site and it should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.

47563 Ty Nant Farm

It is recommended that repairs are made to the roof and guttering to prevent further deterioration to the fabric of the buildings from rainwater. The cause of the severe cracking in the masonry at the southern end of the building is uncertain but will require remediation. All repairs and rebuilding of masonry should be undertaken using traditional materials and techniques appropriate to the area. Surviving fixtures and fittings on the interior should be retained if appropriate. The shed at the southern end of the range appears to have been recently repaired and repointed using cement. To avoid problems that cement pointing can cause to the fabric of lime-mortared masonry, it would be preferable to re-point the building using traditional lime mortar.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN 4022 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN676867

Site Type Burnt Mound **Period** Prehistoric

Description

The site of a possible burnt mound. One of a group of three such features, originally identified by the Ordnance Survey in 1954. This feature was not visited in 2003. The farmer was not aware of its existence, and its exact location is uncertain. It may be located beyond the boundary of this parcel of land.

Recommendations

If this feature is found to be within the land parcel, it is recommended that the site is not ploughed and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock, in order to protect the site and to prevent damage to any buried archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN 4023 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN6767867

Site Type Burnt Mound **Period** Prehistoric

Description

The site of a possible burnt mound. One of a group of three such features, originally identified by the Ordnance Survey in 1954. This feature was not visited in 2003. The farmer was not aware of its existence, and its exact location is uncertain. It may be located beyond the boundary of this parcel of land.

Recommendations

If this feature is found to be within the land parcel, it is recommended that the site is not ploughed and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock, in order to protect the site and to prevent damage to any buried archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN 4024 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** 676867

Site Type Burnt Mound **Period** Prehistoric

Description

The site of a possible burnt mound. One of a group of three such features, originally identified by the Ordnance Survey in 1954. This feature was not visited in 2003. The farmer was not aware of

its existence, and its exact location is uncertain. It may be located beyond the boundary of this parcel of land.

Recommendations

If this feature is found to be within the land parcel, it is recommended that the site is not ploughed and should not be used as a location for feeding livestock, in order to protect the site and to prevent damage to any buried archaeology.

Site Category D

PRN	5626	Site Name	Esgair-hir / Esgair-fraith	Grid Reference	SN73409125
Site Type	Metal Mine	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This PRN encompasses the extensive remains of the Esgair-hir and the Esgair-fraith Mines. The site was visited in 1993 as part of the Ceredigion Metal Mines Project (Protheroe-Jones) during which the nature of the various features was identified. It was not feasible to visit and assess all the individual features of this mine complex that lie within land parcel 'C' during the farm visit. In order to make management recommendations, PRNs have been assigned to features or groups of features that were visited, (see PRNs 47572; 47573; 47574; 47576; 47578). Most of the remains within land parcel 'C' are part of Esgair-hir mine, but reservoirs PRN 47577 and 38075 are associated with Esgair-fraith mine, which lies immediately to the east.

The remains of Esgair-hir Mine are represented on both the first and second Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The location is remote rough pasture. The majority of features are distributed along the line of the seam of ores being mined. At the western end is a discrete group of features (PRN 47573) that includes a run in shaft, bob pit, wheel pit, and associates spoil heaps. From here the seam can be followed in a north easterly direction by a line of old shafts and craters, with associated ring dumps (grouped together as PRN 47572). To the north east of these shafts are the remains of the mine buildings. This group of remains has been divided into two PRNs. PRN 47576 is the remains of the mine offices that form a discrete group of building remains. Immediately to the north are the remains of the engine house, ore bins, and boiler house etc. all of which are partially buried beneath collapsed masonry and spoil tips. This group has been assigned to PRN 47574.

Recommendations

It is recommended that all the mine working remains are maintained as visible landscape features. The majority of earthwork features are grassed over and are relatively stable. There appears to be little or no active damage occurring to these features from plant growth, livestock or other activities. No material should be removed from the spoil tips and current management should be continued. The standing remains of masonry buildings are generally prone to gradual deterioration. Ideally these remains should be recorded archaeologically in their present condition and consolidated to prevent further deterioration. The extensive remains of the Esgair-hir mine that are

evident in the landscape should be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities. More specific recommendations are included under the PRNs assigned to specific features or groups of features within the Esgair-hir mine complex that were identified during the farm visit (see above).

Site Category C

PRN	6268	Site Name	Banc Bwlch y Garreg	Grid Reference	SN72299149
Site Type	Cropmark	Period	Prehistoric?		

Description

Unidentified cropmark. The location of the feature was not visited.

Recommendations

This feature is located in remote rough pasture and is not likely to be under any threat of disturbance or damage. It is recommended that current management be continued.

Site Category D

PRN	9132	Site Name	Cefn Gwyn	Grid Reference	SN67938701
Site Type	Lead Mine	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The Cefn Gwyn mine is represented on both first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps. The site was visited in 1993 as part of the Ceredigion Metal Mines Project (Protheroe-Jones) when the nature of the various visible features was identified. PRN 9132 represents all the features associated with this mine. The majority of features associated with the mine are located along the west bank of the Afon Leri, within Ty Nant Farm land parcel 'D'. The remains of the mine workings are concentrated in a fairly small area, constrained by the topography of the location. The remains of the various mine buildings are in a ruinous state and are mostly overgrown with gorse. Other features are obscured by collapsed masonry and spoil tips. Because of the difficulty of identifying specific features on the ground, no additional PRNs have been allocated to individual features within the mine complex as part of this farm visit. The site is fenced off from stock but is easily accessible from the nearby footpath.

Recommendations

It is recommended that all remains be maintained as visible historic landscape features. The remains of masonry buildings are generally prone to gradual deterioration. Ideally these remains should be recorded archaeologically in their present condition and where appropriate, consolidated to prevent further deterioration. Clearance of vegetation from the remains would help to delay further deterioration. Since the site is located near to a public footpath, with a bridge crossing the

river at the northern end of the mine complex, the remains of the mine could be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities. Alternatively, measures to more effectively prevent public access could be considered. No stone or material from spoil tips should be removed from the site.

Site Category C



Plate 1: PRN 9132 Cefn Gwyn Metal Mine

PRN	25813	Site Name	Bwlch y Gareg	Grid Reference	SN72509081
Site Type	Metal Mine	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The Bwlch y Gareg mine workings are indicated on both the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps as 'old levels'. There are no upstanding masonry structures associated with these workings and the exact location of the levels was not ascertained during the farm visit.

Recommendations

Maintain all remains as visible historic landscape features. No material should be removed from spoil tips. Current management should be continued.

Site Category D

PRN	25844	Site Name	Ty Nant	Grid Reference	SN69598869
Site Type	Lead Mine	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This PRN represents the Ty Nant Mine features (indicated on both 1891 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps) as a group. The site was visited in 1992-3 as part of the Ceredigion Metal Mines Project (Protheroe Jones) but no information from this was available. No building remains associated with this mine were apparent within the farm holding, although entrances to two old levels were visible. These have been attributed individual PRNs (47570; 47571).

Recommendations

Recommendations have been made for individual features associated with this mine rather than for the group of features. Should any additional features come to light, they should be maintained in their current condition.

Site Category C

PRN	38244	Site Name		Grid Reference	SN72328788
Site Type	Stepping Stones	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The stepping stones were recorded on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map, but no evidence of the stones was visible when visited in 1999. The site was not visited in 2003.

Recommendations

If this feature is ever located, it should be maintained in its current condition.

Site Category D

PRN	38246	Site Name	Cyneiniog	Grid Reference	71888807
Site Type	Footbridge	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This footbridge is recorded on the 1906 map. No evidence of the footbridge was visible when the site was visited in 1999. The site was not visited in 2003.

Recommendations

If remnants of this feature is encountered it should be maintained in its current condition.

Site Category D

PRN	47563	Site Name	Tynant Farm	Grid Reference	SN69598860
Site Type	Farm Building	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This range of farm buildings (indicated on both 1891 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps) is still in use at present. The interior of the buildings was not investigated. There is a detached barn at the north end, set at right angles to the rest of the range. The northern section is single storey and its west face consists of a central doorway with a window on either side, all with red brick flat arches. The southern section is of two storeys and may pre-date the northern section. It is terraced into the slope and access to the loft is through a single doorway, from the east side. The west facing elevation of the southern section consists of a doorway and a window at the north end, each with red brick flat arches. To the south is a stone built flat arched doorway. There is a single window on the first floor. The stone arched doorway may be an original opening, while the brick arched openings are probably later modifications. There is some evidence of blocked up openings associated with earlier phases, visible in the stonework. There is a corrugated iron roofed shed at the southern end of the range. Externally it is apparent that repairs to the roof and guttering are necessary at this stage, to prevent further deterioration. There are several significant cracks in the masonry at the south end of the range on the west facing elevation.

Recommendations

It is recommended that repairs are made to the roof and guttering to prevent further deterioration to the fabric of the buildings from rainwater. The cause of the severe cracking in the masonry at the southern end of the building is uncertain but will require remediation. All repairs and rebuilding of masonry should be undertaken using traditional materials and techniques appropriate to the area. Surviving fixtures and fittings on the interior should be retained if appropriate. The shed at the southern end of the range appears to have been recently repaired and repointed using cement. To avoid problems that cement pointing can cause to the fabric of lime-mortared masonry, it would be preferable to re-point the building using traditional lime mortar.

Site Category C



Plate 2: PRN 47563 Tynant Farm Buildings

PRN	47565	Site Name	Brynyfedwen Fawr	Grid Reference	SN70478853
Site Type	Farmstead	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The remains of this farmstead site are in a ruinous state but are not overgrown. The exact layout is uncertain but appears to consist of a cottage and various outbuildings partly terraced into the hill slope. Parts of the site are at present periodically used as sheep pens, but this does not appear to be adversely affecting the condition of the site since the more ruinous parts are fenced off.

Recommendations

The upstanding masonry of this complex of buildings is at general risk of further deterioration. Consolidation of the upstanding masonry should be considered. No stone should be removed from the site and it should not be used as a location for feeding livestock. Current usage of the site does not appear to be adversely affecting the remains.

Site Category C



Plate 3: Brynfedwen Fawr Farmstead site PRN 47565

PRN	47566	Site Name	Dipws	Grid Reference	SN70588828
Site Type	Cottage	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

Collapsed wall foundations of a small probable cottage site represented on both first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps. The site was viewed at a distance (from PRN 47565). The site is within an area of bracken growth, but is not itself overgrown.

Recommendations

The site should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature. The walls have deteriorated to such an extent that consolidation of the remains is unnecessary. No stone should be removed from the site. Current management should be continued.

Site Category C

PRN	47567	Site Name	Bwlch-y-Gareg	Grid Reference	SN72349108
Site Type	Farmstead	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The site of a ruined cottage and associated farm buildings in an east-west alignment indicated on both 1891 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps. The site is located in rough pasture, is not overgrown, and appears to be in a reasonably stable condition.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the site be maintained in its present condition. No stone should be removed from the site, and it should not be used as a location for feeding animals.

Site Category C



Plate 4: Bwlch y Gareg Farmstead site PRN 47567

PRN	47569	Site Name	Ffynnonwared	Grid Reference	SN67478676
Site Type	Cottage	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This Farmstead site is represented on both first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps. The site was not visited and its character and condition of the building remains is uncertain.

Recommendations

This feature may be at general risk of further deterioration. Any trees or other vegetation causing damage to the remains should be cut back and treated to prevent re-growth. Consolidation of upstanding masonry should be considered. No stone should be removed from the site and it should not be used as a location for feeding livestock.

Site Category D

PRN	47570	Site Name	Ty Nant	Grid Reference	SN69562887
Site Type	Mine Level Entrance	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This level entrance is located to the north west of Ty Nant Farm, within an area of woodland. The level is indicated on first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps. It was observed from a distance but not visited.

Recommendations

It is recommended that current management be continued.

Site Category C

PRN	47571	Site Name	Ty Nant	Grid Reference	SN69738859
Site Type	Mine Level Entrance	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This level entrance is part of the Ty Nant lead mine (PRN 25844). The entrance is within a pasture field and is unfenced.

Recommendations

It is recommended that current management be continued.

Site Category C

PRN	47572	Site Name	Esgair-hir	Grid Reference	SN72999112
Site Type	Mine Shafts	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This PRN represents a group of mining features, represented on first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps, form part of the Esgair-hir Mine. The features include levels, shafts, craters, and a prospecting trench, with their associated spoil heaps. These features run in a north-easterly direction and are distributed along the line of a seam of ores between the mine buildings PRN 47574, 47576, and mine shaft PRN 47573. The features are all in a stable condition, with most of the spoil heaps being grassed over.

Recommendations

The shafts and other features should be retained as visible historic landscape features associated with the other remains of the mine. No material should be removed from spoil tips. Current management should be continued.

Site Category C



PLATE 5: Esgair-hir Mine Shafts PRN 47572

PRN	47573	Site Name	Esgair-hir	Grid Reference	SN72749101
Site Type	Mine Shaft	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A discrete group of features associated with an old mine shaft that form part of the Esgair-hir metal mine (PRN 5626). Features identified by Protheroe-Jones during the Metal Mines Survey in 1993 include a well preserved whim circle; a probable adit; spoil tips; a run-in shaft with a stone built bob pit; a masonry bob base and a well preserved wheel pit. The group lies at the end of a line of shafts (PRN 47572) that run in a north easterly direction towards the Esgair-hir mine buildings. The features are in a reasonably stable condition. Parts of the group have been fenced off in the past, but this fencing has not been maintained.

Recommendations

The shaft and associated features in the vicinity that form this group, should be retained as visible historic landscape features associated with the other remains of the Esgair-hir mine. The majority of the earthwork features are grassed over and are relatively stable. There appears to be little or no active damage occurring to these features from plant growth, livestock or other activities. No material should be removed from the spoil tips and current management should be continued. The remains of masonry structures are generally prone to gradual deterioration. Ideally these remains should be recorded archaeologically in their present condition and consolidated to prevent further deterioration. The extensive remains of the Esgair-hir mine that are evident in the landscape (of which this group forms part) should be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities.

Site Category B



PLATE 6: Esgair-hir Mine Shaft PRN 47573

PRN	47574	Site Name	Esgair-hir	Grid Reference	SN73359125
Site Type	Engine House	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The engine House is the most intact feature in this group of mine features situated immediately to the north of the Esgair-hir mine offices (PRN 47576). The group includes the engine house, spoil tips, ore bins, boiler house and bob pits.

Recommendations

The features in this group are in a less stable condition than others in the Esgair-hir mining complex. Ideally these remains should be recorded archaeologically in their present condition and consolidated to prevent further deterioration. The extensive remains of the Esgair-hir mine that are evident in the landscape (of which this group is part) should be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities. No material should be removed from the spoil tips and current management should be continued.

Site Category B



PLATE 7: Esgair-hir Mine Engine House PRN 47574

PRN	47576	Site Name	Esgair-hir	Grid Reference	SN73439120
Site Type	Metal Mine	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

The ruins of the Esgair-hir Mine Offices are the most clearly visible surviving remains of this group of mine buildings. Although in a ruinous state, the remains are in a reasonably stable condition compared with the group of features immediately to the north (PRN 47574).

Recommendations

The site is at present fenced and there appears to be little or no active damage occurring from plant growth, livestock or other activities. Current management should therefore be continued. The surviving remains of the mine buildings and associated workings should be retained as visible

historic landscape features. This site, along with the other mining remains in the mine complex as a whole should be considered as a candidate for improved public access and interpretive facilities.

Site Category B



PLATE 8: Esgair-hir Mine Offices PRN 47576

PRN	47577	Site Name	Esgair-fraith	Grid Reference	SN73599149
Site Type	Reservoir	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This reservoir, and another immediately to the east, supplied water to the Esgair-fraith Mine (to the east of the Esgair-hir Mine).

Recommendations

The reservoir should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature associated with the other remains of the mine. No material should be removed from earth banks associated with the feature.

Current management should be continued.

Site Category B



PLATE 9: Esgair-fraith Mine Reservoir PRN 47577

PRN	47578	Site Name	Esgair-hir	Grid Reference	SN73329136
Site Type	Reservoir	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

This feature is an integral part of the mine workings, originally supplying water for the mine workings to power machinery etc. The earth banks are still clearly visible but the feature does not hold much water.

Recommendations

The reservoir should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature associated with the other remains of the mine. No material should be removed from earth banks associated with the feature.

Current management should be continued.

Site Category C

PRN	47579	Site Name	Esgair-hir	Grid Reference	SN73099158
Site Type	Pond	Period	Post Medieval		

Description

A low bank, (indicated on first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps) is the only visible remnant of this feature that is now in an area of rough boggy ground.

Recommendations

The sluice should be retained as a visible historic landscape feature associated with the other remains of the mine. No material should be removed from earth banks associated with the feature. Current management should be continued.

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.

REFERENCES

- Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire IV.SW
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire IV.SE
- Ordnance Survey 1891 Cardiganshire IV.NE
- Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire IV.SW
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- Protheroe Jones, R 1992-3 Ceredigion Metal Mines Project, unpublished report, copy in Sites and Monuments Record Llandeilo.
- 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. Characterisation

UPLAND CEREDIGION

**HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:
22 CYNEINIOG**

GRID REFERENCE: SN 719881**AREA IN HECTARES:** 70.1

Historic Background

The history of this area has not been researched, and is therefore unknown. The only settlement in the area is Cyneiniog Farm with its associated field system. This farm was in existence by the early 19th-century, and is perhaps likely to be of some antiquity. It is now separated from the lower Cyneiniog valley by forestry planted in the 1960s. Part of the plantation is included in this area. A short-lived railway/tramroad built in 1897 to serve the mines on high ground to the east passes through this area.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The upper Cyneiniog valley is steep sided and narrow. The valley floor is at 180m, the valley sides rise to over 400m. Only the valley floor and gentle lower slopes are included in this area. Cutting across, but included in this area, and separating the valley to the east from that to the west, is a tract of 1960s conifer plantation. To the west of the forestry the valley floor has been divided into small fields by boundary banks and walls. Some of these fields are overgrown and beginning to revert to rough pasture and moorland, though others are still used as hay meadows. Deciduous woodland of a very open nature which has established itself on the lower slopes lends a distinctive character to this area. The area to the east of the plantation, including Cyneiniog Farm, has not been examined on the ground. An embankment and other features of a railway/tramroad are obvious components of the historic landscape. Buildings include the listed stone-built, two-storey house of Alltgochymynydd and its ruined out-buildings at each end.

Recorded archaeology comprises minor metal mines and a deserted post-Medieval settlement. All are located on the southern boundary of this area.

The boundary between this area and the Cyneiniog valley to the west is not at all well-defined, and should be regarded as a broad zone rather than a hard line. A steep valley side of open moorland provides a clear limit of demarcation to the south (area 71). Included in this area is modern forestry, of which the greater proportion has been assigned its own area (12).

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 63 WAUN WYDDYL

GRID REFERENCE: SN 669874

AREA IN HECTARES: 385.4

Historic Background

The history of this small upland area has not been researched. On the tithe map (Llanfihangel Geneu'r glyn, 1847) it is shown unenclosed, and was probably considered crown land, a situation that is likely to have prevailed for several centuries prior to 1847. In the second half of the 19th century the area was divided into very large fields. A wind farm has now been established here.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area consists of a rounded hill which achieves heights of over 340m. Generally the hill sides run down to 250m, but some of the steeper lower slopes descend to less than 150m. Formerly it has been divided into large fields by earth banks - there are no hedges present now, though gorse bushes grow on some banks - but these are now largely redundant and wire fences now provide stock-proof boundaries. Improved grazing dominates, but rushy and peaty hollows are present as well as rough grazing and bracken on the steeper slopes. There are no inhabited settlements. A short-lived (opened 1897) railway/tramway traverses the lower northern slopes. A wind farm has recently been constructed on the crest of the hill.

Recorded archaeology is dominated by the remains of minor metal mines on the northern flanks and summit of the area. An impressive Iron Age fort, Pen Dinas, two possible Bronze Age round barrows and two possible Bronze Age standing stones provide time-depth to this otherwise somewhat featureless landscape.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 75 BONT-GOCH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 687864

AREA IN HECTARES: 311.4

Historic Background

The history of this area has not been researched. Up until two centuries ago much of the land was unenclosed and was therefore probably claimed by the Crown. Some holdings, however, by the late 18th-century were in the possession of the Crosswood and Court Grange estates. Late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood 345/46; NLW Vol 38, 16) show a very different landscape from that of today. Two centuries ago very little settlement and enclosure existed here, although

some cottages on unenclosed moorland are depicted, as well as one farm shown surrounded by a few small fields with woodland on steep slopes. Metal mines were also depicted. Indeed it is the metal mining industry that provided the stimulus for settlement. Llanerch-clwydau mine is quite ancient. It was worked in the 17th century, but not later. Mynydd Gorddu mine was active in the second half of the 19th century, seemingly coming to an end before the end of that century (Bick 1988, 31-2). Cottages and other settlements gradually developed during the 19th century, and land was enclosed. A church was established in 1868 (Jones 1998, 487), and later a school. It is likely that many of the cottages originated as squatter settlements on unenclosed land. The 20th century has witnessed a slow abandonment of dwellings. A water works was built in the 20th century; the original structure now replaced by a modern installation. The garden at Plas Cefn-gwyn is recorded on the Welsh Historic Gardens Database.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This complex area is centred on the open upper valley of the Afon Leri, situated between 150m and 250m. Bont-goch is a loosely nucleated settlement surrounded by a pattern of widely dispersed farms and cottages. Older traditional dwellings - stone-built with slate roofs - are interspersed with modern rendered concrete dwellings. Plas Cefn Gwyn, built in 1822 and now listed, is a two-storey dwelling. Also listed are the stone-built structures of Y Felin house, its out-buildings and mill. The late 19th-century church and nearby (closed) school provides a focus for the settlement. Farms have steel-frame farm-buildings annexed to them and occasional corrugated-iron structures. A stone-built water works close to the centre of the village is dwarfed by a modern installation of concrete and steel. Field patterning is of small irregular enclosures divided by earth and stony banks. Hedges have either gone or only survive in a derelict state on the lower slopes, apart from alongside roads where they are in good condition. At the time of the survey one roadside hedge was being laid. Occasional distinctive hedgerow trees survive on some boundaries. Stands of deciduous woodland are present. This old field pattern is beginning to decay; not only are most fields now divided by wire fences, but in some areas pasture has reverted to rough, rushy ground. Some peaty hollows are evident. However, other fields are now of improved grazing. Remains of the metal mining industry are prominent historic landscape components, especially towards the western end of the area - Mynydd Gorddu mine - where extensive tips survive.

Recorded archaeology mostly consists of metal mine remains and associated features such as leats and reservoirs, or buildings - church, farms - and deserted settlements. Greater time-depth to the landscape is provided by a Medieval holy well with a possible Dark Age dedication to St Padarn, several Bronze Age burnt mounds or hearths - possible settlement sites, and a possible Bronze Age standing stone.

This area is well-defined on all sides except to the north where it merges with areas 92 and 103. Elsewhere, high, formerly unenclosed land (areas 20, 62, 63, 64, 74) borders this area.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 103 AFON LERI

GRID REFERENCE: SN 682883

AREA IN HECTARES: 354.0

Historic Background

The history of this area has not been researched. Unlike many similar valley-floor historic landscape areas to the south, the Leri valley did not lie within one of the many granges of Strata Florida or Cwm-hir Abbey. In the post-Medieval Period no one large estate dominated, as happened in most of upland Ceredigion, and therefore there are no collections of large-scale 18th century maps with which evaluate the development of the historic landscape. The tenurial system is likely to have been one of small owner-occupiers and small private estates, with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms. It is likely that the settlement pattern dates to at least the later Middle Ages, and may be earlier. The associated field system may be of a similar date. Superimposed over the agricultural landscape is one of metal mining. These mines were small-scale operations, but nevertheless had sufficient impact on population levels for a school room to be built in 1845 and a chapel in 1850 (Percival 1998, 512). The tithe map of 1845 shows a landscape essentially the same as today's.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area which encompasses the floor and lower slopes of the Leri, is both varied and complex. The Leri runs rapidly through this area, falling from 170m in the east to less than 90m in the west. Valley sides included in the study area rise steeply to over 200m, and beyond the study area they continue to rise across unenclosed land to over 300m. The settlement pattern of dispersed farms is set in a field system of small- and medium-sized irregular enclosures. These enclosures are bounded by earth or earth, and stone banks topped with hedges, or by dry-stone walls. Dry-stone walls are in varying degrees of repair. Hedges are on the whole overgrown and no longer stock-proof; many contain distinctive trees. These trees together with the numerous stands of deciduous woods and conifer plantations lend a highly wooded appearance to the landscape. Farmland is of improved grazing with some rougher ground on steep slopes, and rushy patches in hollows. Buildings are in a variety of styles and materials; older structures are stone-built with slate roofs, modern buildings are of concrete. Most farms have steel-frame buildings or other structures attached to them. The tips and workings of several metal mines are a distinctive feature of the landscape. The course of the short-lived Plynlimon and Hafan tramway which served some of these mines passes through this area. Dams and leats at the western end of the Leri were built to serve the flannel industry in Tal-y-bont.

Recorded archaeology mostly comprises the remains of metal mines. A mill and an extant chapel are also on the record. A limited time-depth element to the landscape is provided by a possible site of a Bronze Age standing stone, and by a Bronze Age burnt mound or hearth.

This is a well-defined and distinct area. To the north high, unenclosed land has yet to be described. To the south, high unenclosed land (areas 63, 71) forms a clear border to this area. Between this

area and areas 22, 75, 92 and 107 the border is less distinct as all these areas share many similar landscape components.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA:

12 ESGAIR FRAITH PLANTATION

GRID REFERENCE: SN 755908

AREA IN HECTARES: 1540

Historic Background

This very large block of former unenclosed upland lay within Cwmwd Gene u'r glyn, with most of the area probably considered Crown land until fairly recently. Map evidence indicates that almost all the area was unenclosed, though some settlements were recorded. Within or close to the boundaries of this area were several important metal mines: Henfwlch, Camdwrbach, Eaglebrook, Esgair Hir and Esgair Fraith (Bick 1988). The last two are of considerable antiquity and richness, known as the Welsh Potosi (Palmer 1983). It was at Esgair Hir that Sir Carberry Pryse in 1689 challenged the Crown monopoly on mining silver and gold. His victory opened up the mining industry to new capital, resulting in the opening of new mines and encouraging the development of existing workings. Working of these mainly lead and copper mines continued from the 17th century through to the early 19th-century. Aside from metal mining, this area remained remote and under-used until the acquisition of the land by the Forestry Commission and the planting of conifer plantations in the 1960s.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This craggy upland area which achieves a height of over 490m is defined by a hard-edged conifer plantation. Most lies outside the present study, and has therefore not been examined in detail. Within the forestry are the scattered remains of the metal mining industry including tips, shafts and wheel pits and buildings, though most of the important structures of the two main mines, Esgair Hir and Esgair Fraith, lie outside the forestry. Prior to planting most of this area was unenclosed moorland; now it is the plantations, tracks, roads and other forestry features that are the most common and prominent historic landscape components in this area.

Apart from numerous metal mining remains, the recorded archaeology consists of several abandoned long huts and other settlements. These indicate an inhabited area, albeit sparsely populated, prior to the 19th century. Agricultural remains - folds etc - of the post-Medieval Period are also present. A Bronze Age round barrow gives a certain time-depth to the landscape.

Historic landscape areas which border this unit have largely yet to be defined and described. However, open moorland bounds this area to the east (area 21) and Nant-y-moch reservoir to the southeast (area 72).

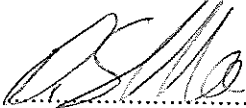
**TY NANT FARM
W/11/2978**

REPORT NUMBER 2003/29

4TH March 2003

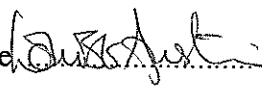
This report has been prepared by : Duncan Schlee

Position : Archaeologist

Signature  Date 11/03/03

This report has been checked and approved by L. Austin on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.



Position Head of Heritage Management

Signature  Date 11/03/03




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

TY NANT FARM

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/2978 A
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN44229
 National Grid Reference SN70108870

-  Farm Boundary
-  Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance

-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings
-  Sites and Buildings of National Importance without a statutory designation




Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest




Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

-  Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance including Grade 2 listed buildings

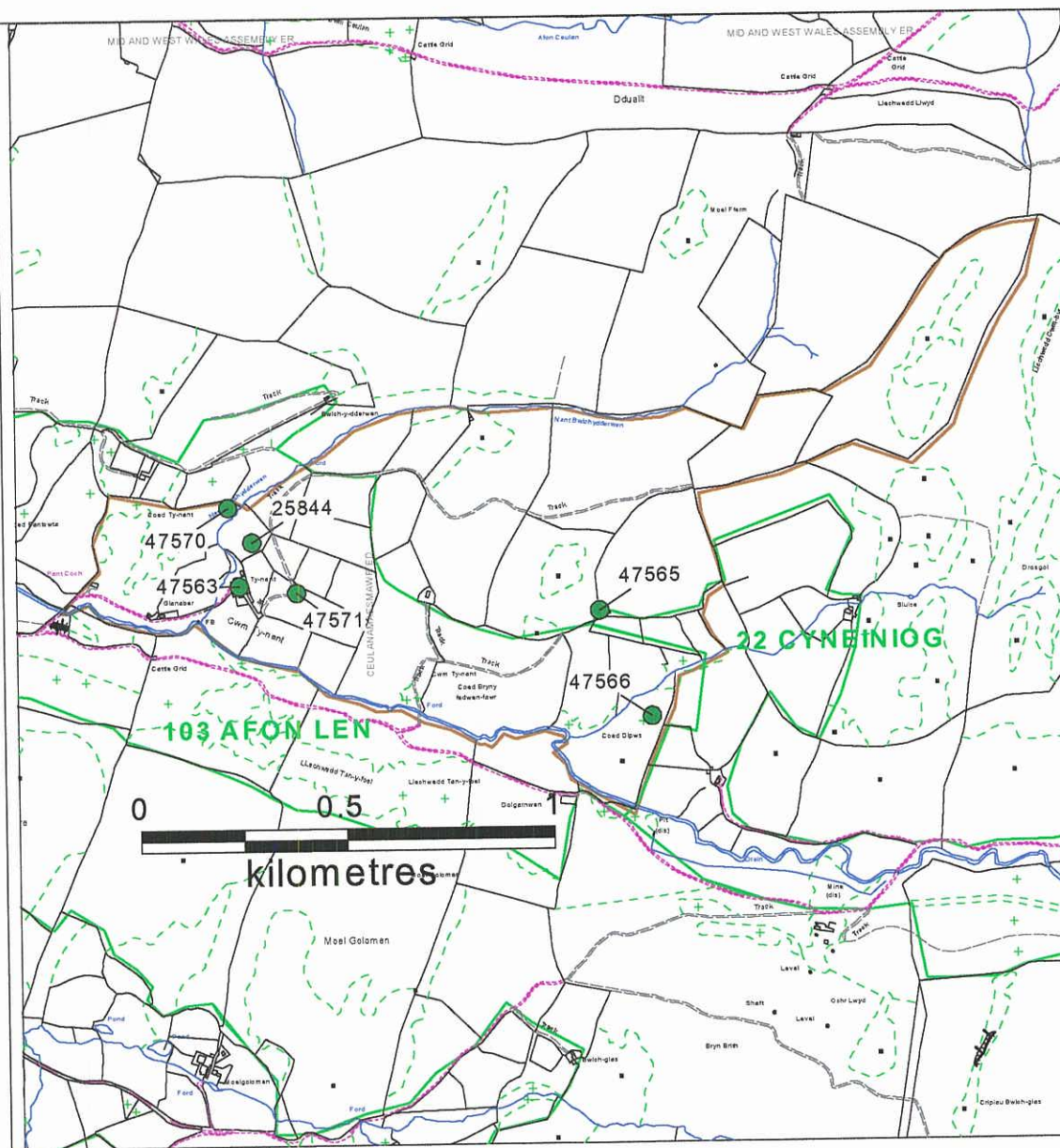
Site Category C - Local Importance

-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance



-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

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TY NANT FARM

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/2978 B
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN44229
 National Grid Reference SN72008800

 Farm Boundary
 Historic Landscape Character Area


Site Category A - National Importance

-  Scheduled Ancient Monuments
-  Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings
-  Sites and Buildings of National Importance without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

-  Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance including Grade 2 listed buildings

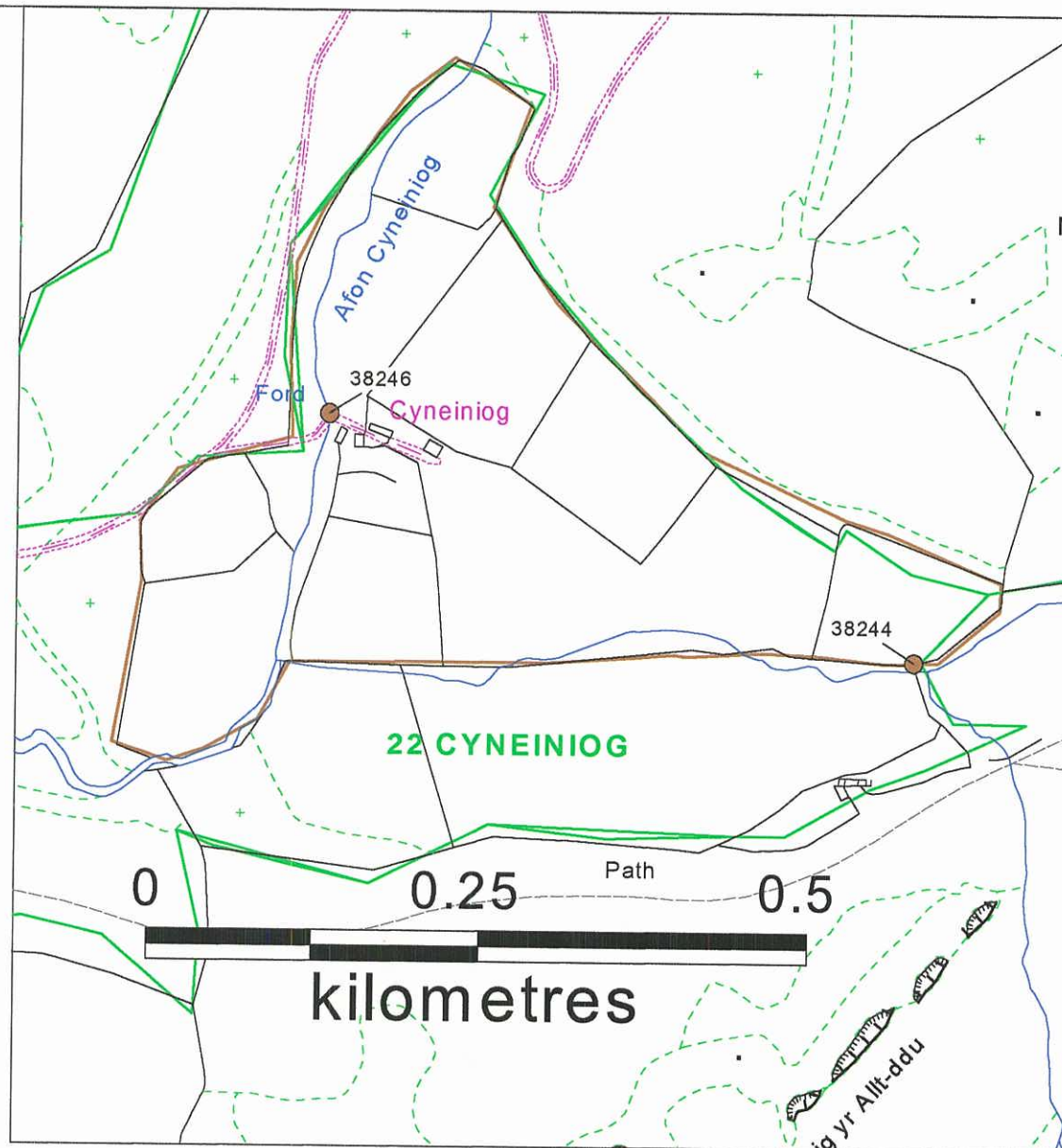
Site Category C - Local Importance

-  Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with no physical definition

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TY NANT FARM


Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/2978 D
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 44229
 National Grid Reference SN67408690

 Farm Boundary
 Historic Landscape Character Area

Site Category A - National Importance


 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance
 without a statutory designation


 Registered Parks and Gardens of Historic
 Interest

 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D - Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with
 no physical definition

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