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# **Penlan-Uchaf W/13/3282**

## **Tir Gofal Farm Visit Historic Environment Report**



Report No. 2003/27

Report Prepared for:  
Countryside Council for Wales

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2003/27  
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Penlan-Uchaf  
W/13/3282  
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 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

Penlan- Uchaf (PRN 47533) lies on a south facing slope of Mynydd Carningli between 110 metres and 290 metres. It is sandwiched between the unenclosed moorland of Carningli which it borders to the north, and the Afon Gwaun to the south. The landscape of Penlan-Uchaf is diverse. Improved grassland in small irregular fields surrounds the farmsteads of Penlan-Uchaf and Llanerch at lower altitudes, whilst higher levels are characterised by fewer enclosed fields of rough grazing and tussock grass. The upland area of the farmstead is located within the Historic Landscape Character Area of Gochel Sythi, which is characterised by larger, more regular enclosures associated with abandoned farmsteads that are suggestive of squatter settlements or "tai unnos." Field boundaries on the farmstead consist of earth and stone banks, and stony banks, which are topped with grown out hedges at lower levels.

The Llanychlwydog and Newport Parish tithe maps show that Penlan-Uchaf was divided into two land holdings in the mid nineteenth century. Penlan Uchaf comprised the western arm of the present day farmstead, whilst the rest of the holding, which incorporated the farmstead of Llanerch consisted of *Bounty Land belonging to the Reverend Daniel Davies*. The field pattern shown on these early maps appears to have remained intact until today.

Penlan-Uchaf farmstead is first shown on the 1819 Ordnance Survey Old Series map, although it is portrayed in more accurate detail on the 1889 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 original surveyors drawings. The farm buildings are arranged around a roughly rectangular farmyard with access trackways to the southwest and the northeast. The extent of the farmyard is defined to the south and west by long narrow buildings, whilst a large square building marks its eastern extent. A long narrow pond is shown above the yard to the north with a leat flowing down into a small square building in the farmyard. By the time of the 1906 Ordnance Survey map, two of the buildings are shown to be ruinous and the pond is no longer visible. The farmstead retains little of its historic character today and large livestock sheds of breeze block and box section construction have been built to the east and north of the farmyard on the site of traditional buildings. The building identified as *homestead* on the 1844 tithe map survives intact and is inhabited by the landowner. The remnant walls of another building to the south survive to around one and a half metres high and have been incorporated into a garden feature. The small square building on the north side of the farmyard has also been modified and it is not possible to gain any idea of its original appearance. No other traces of the original farmstead survive.

The historical integrity of Llanerch farmstead (PRN 47540) in the valley bottom to the east of the holding is better preserved and the L-shaped arrangement shown on the early Ordnance Survey maps persists today. A long, low building range aligned northwest to southeast defines the eastern extent of the farmyard, which is overlooked by the modest vernacular farmhouse to the north. Modern farm buildings at Llanerch form a discrete unit to the east and consist of large sheds of corrugated iron and sheet box construction.

The landscape of Penlan-Uchaf is rich in archaeology. The smaller irregular field at lower altitudes may have medieval origins and may have been part of the medieval manor of Llanmerchan (or "Nantmerchan"), a knights fee of the barony of Cemaes, then an earldom of Pembroke (Charles

1992, 98). The larger, regular enclosures on higher ground are likely to be of a late eighteenth or early nineteenth century date formed during a time of rising population. Deserted settlements near Carn Edward (PRN 47387) and at Gochel Sythi (PRN 6463) provide further evidence of a time of more dense settlement. The holding also contains a historic stone surfaced roadway (PRN 47539), and several small quarries (PRN 47389, 47532, 47538). A sheepfold (PRN 47388) has also been identified at Carn Edward on the periphery of Carningle Common and provides evidence of communal activities.

The landowner, who has a great interest in the history of the area, believes that their family lineage can be traced back to the late sixteenth century in this part of the Gwaun Valley.

## **MAIN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Archaeological sites on the holding that require action are detailed below. For other management recommendations see the gazetteer of individual sites.

The retention of field boundaries and the management of historic hedges is required in order to maintain the field pattern which may have medieval origins.

### **PRN 6463 SETTLEMENT**

There are no immediate threats apparent from the current management regime, although concentrations of gorse are increasingly becoming established over the site and are masking some of the earthworks. An even grass sward, necessary for long term survival of earthwork remains, should be established over the site and any scrub growth should be controlled by targeted burning. No ground disturbing activities should take place within the settlement area, which may preserve buried archaeological remains.

### **PRN 47536 DAIRY**

The building is on the whole in good condition and the western pitch of the roof has recently been repaired. Several tiles have worked loose on the eastern pitch and need replacing if the building is to be maintained in a weatherproof condition necessary for its long term survival. Lime mortar bonds are becoming eroded in parts of the northeast lateral wall and may require repointing using a traditional lime mortar mix.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

|           |           |           |                  |                |            |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| PRN       | 6463      | Site Name | GOCHEL<br>SYTHI  | Grid Reference | SN04893635 |
| Site Type | FARMSTEAD | Period    | Post<br>Medieval |                |            |

### Description

Gochel Sythi settlement is first shown on the Newport and Llanychlwydog Parish tithe maps (1845, 1844) as two buildings, accompanied by small paddocks. Only the field boundaries and cottage enclosure are shown to survive by the time of the 1891 Ordnance Survey map. Gochel Sythi is likely to originally have been a squatter settlement or *tai-unnos* of an 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, when marginal land was becoming increasingly populated during a time of rising population. These settlements were often short lived and like many others, Gochel Sythi was abandoned during the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The western half of the settlement (PRN 41475) lies outside of the holding area within Penlan Wood. The eastern extent of Gochel-Sythi (PRN 6463) lies within Penlan-Uchaf and is well preserved under rough pasture. The stony earth banks and associated ditches shown on the early maps are still visible as well defined earthworks. The main boundary bank, which bisects the settlement on an east-west orientation, survives at a height of up to one and a half metres and its parallel ditches continue to carry water. Boundary banks, which demarcate small plots of land and a cottage enclosure are identifiable, although they are less pronounced up to a height of around one metre. The rectangular building platform comprises an even spread of sandstone rubble, aligned east-west and measuring around eight metres by eighteen metres indicates the extent of the building shown on the tithe map. Further interpretation of the building plan and structure was not possible from the surviving material. A discarded plough to the west of the building platform suggests that some of these plots would once have been cultivated, although the area would have continued to be dominated by a pastoral economy. The site is currently under unimproved pasture and tussock grass, which is grazed periodically.

### Recommendations

There are no immediate threats apparent from the current management regime, although concentrations of gorse are increasingly becoming established over the site and are masking some of the earthworks. An even grass sward, necessary for long term survival of earthwork remains, should be established over the site and any scrub growth should be controlled by targeted burning. No ground disturbing activities should take place within the settlement area, which may preserve buried archaeological remains.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 1- the housing platform at Gochel Sythi (PRN 6463)



Plate 2- field boundary banks at Gochel Sythi looking east

|                  |           |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47387     | <b>Site Name</b> | PENLAN-<br>UCHAF | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05343641 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | LONG HUT? | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

### **Description**

This sub-rectangular feature is aligned north-south along its long axis and measures approximately 5.5 metres by 4.1 metres. Remnant walls of limestone rubble are visible on eroded earthwork banks upto 0.9 metres wide and 0.5 metres high. Some scattered building debris are also visible on the interior of the structure. Interpreting the original function and date of this structure, which survives in a poor condition and is not identified on any of the early map sources is problematical, although it may be an old shepherding cottage. No associated enclosure or field boundaries could be identified.

### **Recommendations**

No apparent threats could be identified from the current management regime. The site should continue to be sensitively grazed in order to maintain a stable grass sward necessary for its long term survival. Scrub should not be allowed to become established over the site.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 3- cottage site (PRN 47387) with Carn Edward in the Background

|                  |       |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|-------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47388 | <b>Site Name</b> | PENLAN-<br>UCHAF | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05343641 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | FOLD  | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

#### **Description**

This sub-circular sheep fold measuring approximately nine by nine metres across is enclosed to the east by a natural recess within Carn Edward, and a sub-circular dry stone wall completes the enclosure to the west. It is not shown on any of the historic maps and its date is not known. The fold was not seen during the archaeological farm visit and its condition is not known.

#### **Recommendations**

This sheepfold is an important part of the historic landscape of the area and is one of several communal sheepfolds on the edge of Mynydd Carningli. It should be preserved as a historic landscape feature and not subjected to any ground intrusive activity. The walls of the sheepfold should be repaired if necessary and maintained in order to preserve its original layout.

**Site Category** C

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|                  |        |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|--------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47389  | <b>Site Name</b> | PENLAN-<br>UCHAF | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN04963500 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | QUARRY | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

#### **Description**

This "*Old Quarry*" is identified on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map and it likely to have been for domestic use, providing stone for the steep trackway to Penlan-Uchaf. The quarry is currently masked by bramble and scrub growth.

#### **Recommendations**

Maintain as existing. Do not infill.

**Site Category** C

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|                  |        |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|--------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47532  | <b>Site Name</b> | PENLAN-<br>UCHAF | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05553516 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | QUARRY | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

**Description**

This small quarry is first shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map in a natural south facing slope. The landowner believes that the quarry was still in use around seventy years ago when his father was farming.

**Recommendations**

The quarry should continue to be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature and should not be infilled.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 4- the quarry (PRN 47532)

|                  |             |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47555       | <b>Site Name</b> | PENLAN-<br>UCHAF | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05063517 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | OUTBUILDING | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

### Description

This building, which is first shown clearly on the 1889 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings, remains visible on Ordnance Survey maps up until 1964. It follows a northeast southwest alignment and defines the southeastern extent of the farmyard at Penlan-Uchaf. The building no longer survives intact and the remnant walls, up to around one and a half metres high have been incorporated into a modern garden feature.

### Recommendations

The remnant walls of the outbuilding should be maintained in a stable condition using traditional building materials and techniques.

**Site Category** C



Plate 5- the remnant walls of the building in the yard at Penlan Uchaf

|                  |             |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47556       | <b>Site Name</b> | PENLAN-<br>UCHAF | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05053519 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | OUTBUILDING | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

**Description**

This building, which is first shown in detail on the 1889 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings, is shown to be in a derelict state by the time of the 1906 Ordnance Survey map. A long narrow pond is shown above the yard to the northeast with a leat flowing down into the building. The building has been modified and it is not possible to gain an idea of its original appearance and function.

**Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations.

**Site Category** C

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|                  |          |                  |                  |                       |            |
|------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b>       | 47534    | <b>Site Name</b> | LLANERCH         | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05663540 |
| <b>Site Type</b> | TRACKWAY | <b>Period</b>    | Post<br>Medieval |                       |            |

**Description**

This trackway is first shown on the 1819 Old Series Ordnance Map, and provides access to the farmstead of Penlan-Uchaf and land to the north from the Llanychlwydog road. It continues to be maintained for use as a farm trackway.

**Recommendations**

Maintain as a historic landscape feature.

**Site Category** C

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**PRN** 47535 **Site Name** LLANERCH **Grid Reference** SN05663540

**Site Type** OUTBUILDING **Period** Post  
Medieval

### **Description**

This outbuilding forms the northwest unit of the building range which defines the eastern extent of the farmyard at Llanerch. It is of uncoursed rubble construction with squared quoins and a pitched slate roof. The building, which is likely to be of a mid nineteenth century date has experienced several modifications from its original appearance. The building is accessed in the southwest lateral wall by two recent openings; a narrow doorway with a wooden lintel, and a wide "garage entrance" with a concrete lintel. The rear of the building preserves an original doorway with a wooden lintel, a slit window and a recently added window. The interior of the building was not seen during the farm visit.

### **Recommendations**

The building, which is currently in good condition, should be maintained using traditional building material materials and techniques in order to preserve its historic character.

**Site Category** C

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Plate 6- Llanerch Farmstead (PRN 47540)

**PRN** 47536 **Site Name** LLANERCH **Grid Reference** SN05673540

**Site Type** DAIRY **Period** Post  
Medieval

### **Description**

This one and a half storey building forms the central unit of the long, low building range, which defines the eastern extent of the farmyard at Llanerch. It is constructed local stone built to rough courses, with a pitched slate roof. The building is accessed from the farmyard by a central sliding doorway with a wooden lintel. The original square wooden framed windows survive on either side of this central doorway. Infilled slit windows are visible at either end of the rear wall.

The interior of the building is divided into two bays separated by a breeze block wall. Two concrete stalls with halter bars face onto a concrete trough and lateral feed passage in the north bay of the building. The south bay, which is currently empty, is believed by the landowner to have been a dairy when his grandfather was farming. Metal pipes in the south gable wall may survive as remnants of the original dairy apparatus. The building is likely to be of a mid nineteenth century date.

### **Recommendations**

The building is on the whole in good condition and the western pitch of the roof has recently been repaired. Several tiles have worked loose on the eastern pitch and need replacing if the building is to be maintained in a weatherproof condition necessary for its long term survival. Lime mortar bonds are becoming eroded in parts of the northeast lateral wall and may require repointing using a traditional lime mortar mix.

**Site Category** C



Plate 7- the dairy (PRN 47536)

**PRN** 47537 **Site Name** LLANERCH **Grid Reference** SN05683539

**Site Type** OUTBUILDING **Period** Post  
Medieval

**Description**

This outbuilding is the most recent addition to the long, low building range which defines the eastern extent of the farmyard at Llanerch. It is of brick construction, with a pitched corrugated asbestos roof and is likely to be of an early mid twentieth century date. It is accessed by doorways in the centre of the southwest and northwest lateral walls, or in the south gable end. There is a rectangular window on either side of the central doorway in the southwest lateral wall. The interior of the building was not seen during the farm visit.

**Recommendations**

The building, which is in good condition, should continue to be maintained using similar building materials and techniques to those used in its original construction.

**Site Category** C

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**PRN** 47538 **Site Name** LLANERCH **Grid Reference** SN05633543

**Site Type** QUARRY **Period** Post  
Medieval

**Description**

This small quarry is first shown on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map in a natural southeast facing slope directly behind the farmhouse at Llanerch.

**Recommendations**

The quarry should continue to be maintained as a visible historic landscape feature.

**Site Category** C

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|            |       |                  |          |                       |            |
|------------|-------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b> | 47539 | <b>Site Name</b> | LLANERCH | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05653546 |
|------------|-------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|

|                  |      |               |                  |
|------------------|------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Site Type</b> | ROAD | <b>Period</b> | Post<br>Medieval |
|------------------|------|---------------|------------------|

**Description**

Stone surfaced trackway running behind Llanerch in a northeasterly direction towards Penrhiw and Dolrhanog. This forms part of the old Newport to Crymmych road, which had fallen out of use by the time of the 1819 Old Series Ordnance Survey map. It is currently maintained for use as a farm trackway.

**Recommendations**

The road should continue to be maintained as a historic landscape feature.

**Site Category** C

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|            |      |                  |          |                       |            |
|------------|------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>PRN</b> | 1506 | <b>Site Name</b> | LLANERCH | <b>Grid Reference</b> | SN05703537 |
|------------|------|------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|

|                  |           |               |                  |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------|
| <b>Site Type</b> | EARTHWORK | <b>Period</b> | Post<br>Medieval |
|------------------|-----------|---------------|------------------|

**Description**

In 1954 AC Nye of the Ordnance Survey described "Two short, thick, square topped standing stones about 14 yards apart, in a space enclosed by ancient banks. The northwest end of the enclosure contains two large mounds which could very well cover the remains of a small building or buildings." A later visit by the Ordnance Survey in 1966 identified nothing of archaeological interest when the site was excavated by the farmer for building purposes. A large modern farm building of breezeblock and sheet box construction has since been built over the site and no features of archaeological interest could be identified. There is potential for the survival of buried archaeological remains below the modern building foundations however.

**Recommendations**

Buried archaeological remains may survive below the level of the modern building foundation. No specific management recommendations can be made in this instance.

**Site Category** C

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## **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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- Tithe Map 1844 Llanychlwydog Parish
- Tithe Apportionment 1842 Newport Parish
- Tithe Map 1844 Newport Parish


# Penlan-Uchaf

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3282  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45666  
 National Grid Reference SN05353543

 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

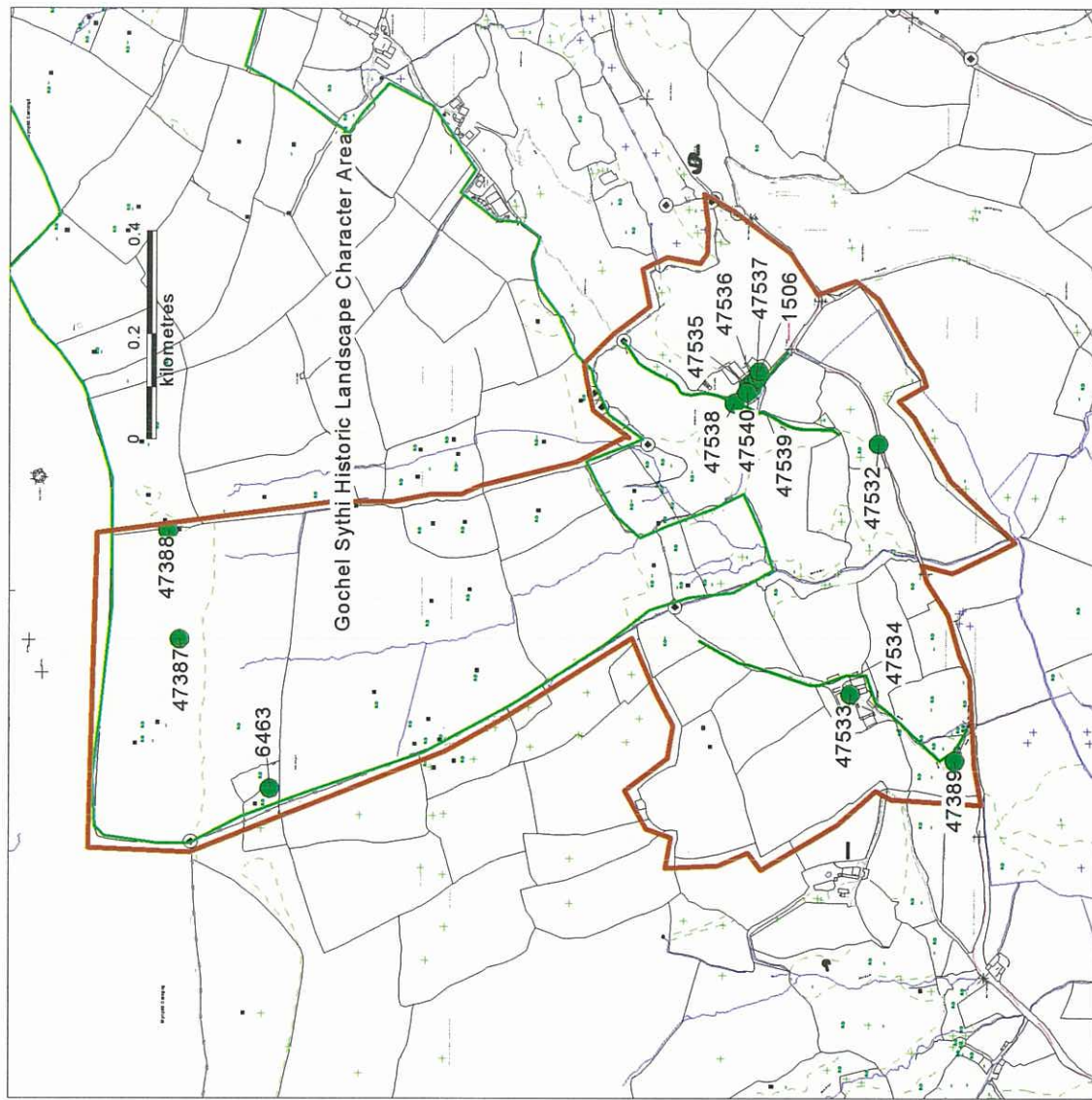
Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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# Penlan-Uchaf

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 National Grid Reference SN05353543

 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

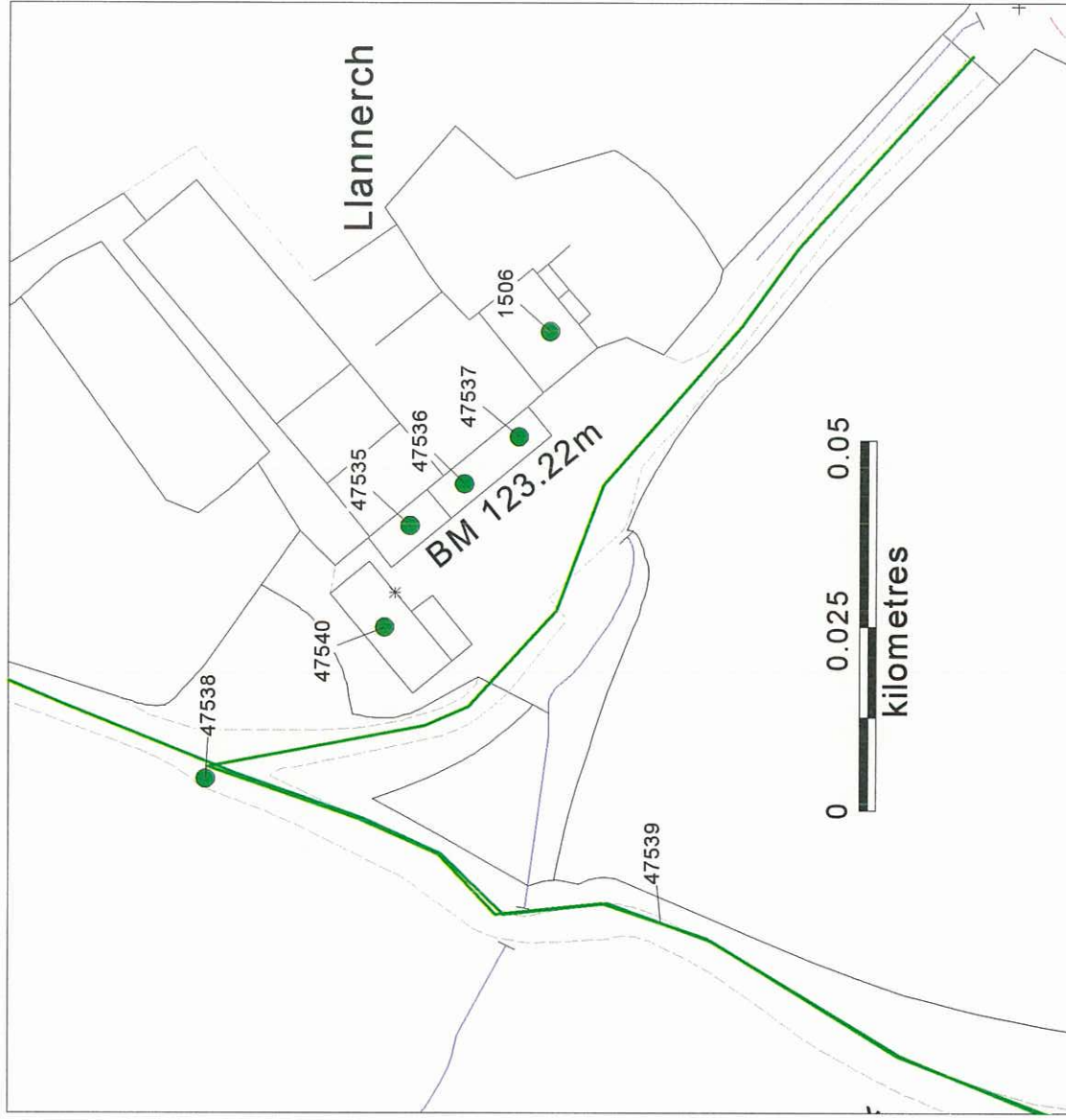
## Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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# Penlan-Uchaf

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/13/3282  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN45666  
 National Grid Reference SN05353543

 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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Pen-Lan-Uchaf

**Penlan-Uchaf  
W/13/3282**

**REPORT NUMBER 2003/27**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March 2003**

This report has been prepared by William Steele

Position Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature W. Steele Date 3/4/2003

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

Position Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Louise Austin Date 03/04/03

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