

# **Penwernhir W/11/3984**

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



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Penwernhir  
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**

Penwernhir Farm is set at grid reference SN73916725, in the community of Ystrad Fflur. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

The farm is roughly midway between Ffair-Rhos and Pontrhydfendigaid, and falls into two Historic Landscape Character Areas – 41; Cwm Gwyddyl and 118; Ystrad Fflur. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use traditions have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape. Full character area descriptions are attached to this report.

Penwernhir, and the area surrounding it, has changed very little since the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a landscape of scattered farms set in irregular fields and surrounded by large areas of moorland and rough pasture. The farmstead itself (PRN 49946) is notable for its buildings – a coherent group with two buildings (a stable, PRN 49951 and a livestock house or shelter shed, PRN 49949) dating to at least 1820, if not earlier. The cowshed (PRN 49948) with its attached granary and cartshed and the barn (PRN 49950) seem to have both been added before the tithe survey of 1847, resulting in a set of farm buildings which are relatively close in date and substantially unmodified.

Penwernhir is also characterised by the remains of the lead mining industry which lie in the southwest of the farm. Surface remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century mining are common in this area of Ceredigion, and are a distinctive component of the landscape. Cwmmawr mine (PRN 25943) contains a number of well preserved and visible features, including a reservoir (PRN 49952), spoil tips (PRNs 50085 and 50087) and engine platforms (PRNs 50081 and 49954). This part of the farm should be regarded in its entirety as a historic landscape.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES**

- i. To ensure that the historic character and integrity of the farmstead is retained, through sympathetic building restoration and maintenance works.
- ii. To secure the long-term preservation of the mining remains as stable and visible landscape features.

## **SITES REQUIRING ACTIVE MANAGEMENT**

All of the sites on this farm are covered by the management guidelines given in section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features). A copy of these guidelines is included (see page 7).

However, a few sites require more specific or active management, and recommendations for those are given below:

### **PRN 25943 – Cwmmawr Mine**

Management of this site should aim to preserve all surface remains of the mine in a stable and visible condition.

Recommendations for separate parts of this complex are made under the individual PRNs. In general, the current management regime of light grazing seems to suit the site very well and should be continued. The scrap on the east side should be removed and no further dumping should take place.

### **PRN 49946 – Penwernhir Farmstead**

It is important that the coherent nature of the farmstead is retained. This can be achieved through the maintenance of individual buildings (see recommendations for buildings under their PRNs), but also through consideration of the farmyard as a whole.

Care should be taken that any new buildings do not have a detrimental visual impact on the farmstead as a whole. Similarly, the impact of any alterations or additions to existing buildings should be carefully considered before works are carried out.

### **PRN 49948 – Cowshed**

Restoration of this building would be very welcome. Re-slating and replacing unsafe roof timbers should be carried out as a matter of urgency, and the wooden lintel above the cartshed doors also needs replacing. The roof currently has a large overhang and no guttering, and this should be repeated in the new roof.

It is important that the details which characterise this building are not lost or obscured during any restoration works. Any work on the windows should aim to retain and repair the original frames where possible. If new windows are necessary, they should be in the same style as the old ones. The internal details, including flooring, stalls and loose box, should also all be retained as they are an integral part of the character of the building.

The landowner raised the possibility of putting an extra door into the south gable, leading out of the end of the feeding passage. If this is to be carried out, it is important that the door 'blends in' with the other doors in the building. It should be the same dimensions, and also should have the stone arch above it.

### **PRN 50081 – Engine Platform**

Ground disturbance and vehicle movement in this area should be avoided in order to allow the grass cover to re-establish itself.

**PRN 50087 – Tip; Spoil heap**

The sheep feeder is set on a largely stone surface, and it therefore should not cause any erosion. However, the loose, unconsolidated nature of the tip material makes it vulnerable to erosion, and sheep-paths and scrapes could form very quickly. At present, there is no sign of this, and there is no problem with continuing to feed livestock here. However, the site should be monitored occasionally, and if erosion becomes a problem then feeding should be discontinued in this location.

## **TIR GOFAL FARM MANAGEMENT PLAN SECTION B2; ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES.**

The management of all sites should comply with the following general requirements for the **maintenance and protection of archaeological and historic features:**

- Historic earthworks, stone structures, and archaeological sites must be retained and protected against damage.
- Unless the land has previously been used for arable crops, do not plough earthworks or archaeological sites, or cultivate so close as to cut into the surface profile of earthworks or cause damage to stone structures. On existing arable land, do not increase the depth of cultivation.
- Do not install any new drainage or underground services. Maintain an even cover of low growing vegetation and stock at a level that prevents any poaching or erosion. Do not site supplementary feeding areas or water troughs on archaeological or historic features.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without prior approval. Avoid using heavy machinery on such areas.
- Do not remove any material from archaeological or historic features or deposit any spoil or farm wastes.
- Remove any dead or unstable timber from the vicinity of earthworks or stone structures. Agree with the project officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by storm events such as wind-throw trees.
- Ensure that all rabbits are kept under control and do not cause damage to earthworks and archaeological sites.
- Do not carry out any excavations, erect any new structures or plant any trees without prior approval from the project officer.
- The use of metal detectors on land subject to agreement must be in accordance with the Treasure Act, 1996.
- Where surface archaeological finds have been discovered, the findspots should be treated with the same care as buried archaeological remains. Chance discoveries made during the course of your agreement should be notified to your local Archaeological Trust.

### **Traditional Buildings**

- Traditional buildings, which are weatherproof and structurally sound, must be maintained in a weatherproof condition. Those traditional buildings, or parts of traditional buildings, that have not been modified previously must be maintained using traditional materials.
- Traditional buildings that have been modified previously may be maintained using compatible materials.
- Do not disturb any bats or barn owls that use the buildings. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

## GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

<b>PRN</b>	25943	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73506720
<b>Site Type</b>	MINE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

### Description

A 19<sup>th</sup> century lead mine which was re-opened in 1911 to mine both lead and zinc. Small amounts of silver were also extracted at this time.

A dense concentration of remains lie in the southwest of the farm. These remains continue to the east, beyond the farm boundry. However, to the west the mine is bounded by an area of ridge and furrow (PRN 50088) which implies that mining activity did not spread any further west.

Surface remains of the mine include a reservoir (PRN 49952), spoil tips (PRNs 50085 and 50087), shafts (PRNs 50083, 49955) and engine platforms (PRNs 49954, 50081, 50084). It is important to stress that although the main features have been individually identified and assigned record numbers, the site is very complex and there are a large number of earthworks, platforms and spoil tips which have not been identified. Full recording of the site was beyond the scope of the Tir Gofal farm visit.

The area highlighted on the attached map should be regarded in its entirety as a historic landscape, and the management recommendations made below apply to the whole site.

The mine area is under pasture and is grazed by sheep. It is generally in a stable condition with a good turf covering over most parts. A considerable amount of scrap has been dumped on the east side of the complex.

### Recommendations

Management of this site should aim to preserve all surface remains of the mine in a stable and visible condition.

Recommendations for separate parts of this complex are made under the individual PRNs. In general, the current management regime of light grazing seems to suit the site very well and should be continued. The scrap on the east side should be removed and no further dumping should take place.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	49946	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73916725
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMSTEAD	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

Penwernhir Farmstead is seen on historic maps from the 1820-21 Ordnance Survey surveyor's drawings onwards, but may be older. The layout seen today has changed very little since the production of the tithe map of Gwnnws parish (1847).

The farmstead consists of a number of buildings arranged in a loose 'U' shape, set slightly apart from the house (PRN 49947). The buildings show that Penwernhir was a mixed farm – it contains a barn with a threshing floor and wheel pit (PRN 49950) for crop processing, along with a cowshed (PRN 49948) which has had a cartshed and granary added to one end. A stable (PRN 49951) and a livestock house or shelter shed (PRN 49949) complete the yard.

The buildings are all rubble stone built but with squared, well-finished quoins. They are bound with lime mortar and bear traces of limewash on the front. Simple stone arches over some entrances are the only decorations. The buildings are all very similar in style and construction techniques, which implies that they were built within a short time of each other. The surveyor's drawings of about 1820 seem to show two buildings running roughly north-south, parallel with each other – it seems likely that these are the shelter-shed and the stable, which may therefore be slightly earlier than the other buildings.

The buildings in this farmstead have a significant group value as they form a coherent unit, and have not been substantially altered. They are generally in fair condition, and the landowner is proposing to do restoration work on the cowshed through Tir Gofal.

### **Recommendations**

It is important that the coherent nature of the farmstead is retained. This can be achieved through the maintenance of individual buildings (see recommendations for buildings under their PRNs), but also through consideration of the farmyard as a whole.

Care should be taken that any new buildings do not have a detrimental visual impact on the farmstead as a whole. Similarly, the impact of any alterations or additions to existing buildings should be carefully considered before works are carried out.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Traditional Buildings) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

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<b>PRN</b>	49947	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73896732
<b>Site Type</b>	FARMHOUSE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

Farmhouse set at the north end of Penwernhir farmstead (PRN 49946). The house is in use as a private dwelling and is therefore outside the Tir Gofal scheme.

#### **Recommendations**

No specific management recommendations apply.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49948	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73916727
<b>Site Type</b>	COWSHED	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

#### **Description**

A long, lofted cowshed with a cartshed and granary attached to the north end, part of Penwernhir farmstead (PRN 49946). Map evidence suggests that the cowshed dates to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The cowshed is rubble stone built and bound with lime mortar. The west elevation has evenly spaced openings – alternate doors and windows, with simple stone arches above them. However, the windows seem to have originally been doors which were later half-blocked. Internally the building remains very much a working cowshed, and is used as such by the farmer. Wooden stall partitions run most of the length of the building, with a loose box at the north end. A wooden hay-rack survives in the loose-box. A feeding passage runs along in front of the stalls, on the east side, and a drainage passage also survives behind the stalls, on the west side. The floor is of small, squared tiles, to allow easy drainage and cleaning.

The building is lofted for its full length, and a trapdoor in the centre of the building would have given access to the hayloft, via a ladder.

At the north end of the cowshed, a cartshed with a granary above has been added. It is likely that this addition was made soon after the building was constructed, as it is very similar in style and in building techniques. Unusually, the double opening into the cartshed is in the north gable – probably because the ground there is more level. Had the openings been in the west elevation it would have required the construction of some kind of ramp to allow carts to be pulled in and out of the shed.

The windows are an interesting detail of this building. They consist of four small, square glass panes set above wooden slats (see picture). Above all the entrances (windows and doors) are small slate pieces set into the wall to act as overhangs, and prevent water from running down the woodwork.

The building is generally in fair condition, but there are a few problems which need addressing. The slate roof is in poor condition, with many slates missing. The landowner also says that there are problems with the timbers in the roof. He is proposing to carry out restoration works through Tir Gofal.

## Recommendations

Restoration of this building would be very welcome. Re-slating and replacing unsafe roof timbers should be carried out as a matter of urgency, and the wooden lintel above the cartshed doors also needs replacing. The roof currently has a large overhang and no guttering, and this should be repeated in the new roof.

It is important that the details which characterise this building are not lost or obscured during any restoration works. Any work on the windows should aim to retain and repair the original frames where possible. If new windows are necessary, they should be in the same style as the old ones. The internal details, including flooring, stalls and loose box, should also all be retained as they are an integral part of the character of the building.

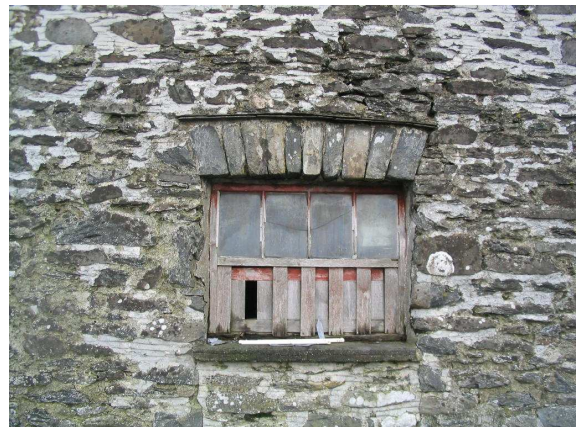
The landowner raised the possibility of putting an extra door into the south gable, leading out of the end of the feeding passage. If this is to be carried out, it is important that the door 'blends in' with the other doors in the building. It should be the same dimensions, and also should have the stone arch above it.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Traditional Buildings) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 1 (left)** *The west elevation of the cowshed*



**Plate 2 (right)** *Detail of the window. Note the wooden slats for ventilation, and the slate overhang above the stone arch.*

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<b>PRN</b>	49949	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73926726
<b>Site Type</b>	SHELTER SHED	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### Description

A stone built shelter shed or livestock house, opening into Penwernhir farmstead (PRN 49946). The building is a form of bank barn, terraced into the hillside on the east side. The west elevation has three large doors which lead into three big loose-boxes, divided by stone partition walls with small ventilation slits in them. The building was originally lofted, with a door leading from the south gable straight into the loft.

Shelter sheds were often provided when cattle were over-wintered in the farmyard. However, they were normally simple, open-fronted structures so this one is unusual in having a hayloft and also in having separate loose-boxes inside.

Map evidence suggests that this building is one of the oldest on the farm, and dates to at least 1820-21, possibly earlier. In keeping with the other buildings on the yard, it is rubble stone built with squared quoins.

The building is generally in fair condition, although the roof has lost a lot of slates.

### Recommendations

Ideally, the roof should be re-slatted. However, if this is not possible then temporarily covering the gaps in the slates – perhaps with plastic sheeting as a temporary measure until the building can be re-slatted– would help to prevent water from entering the building.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Traditional Buildings) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 3 (left)** Large doorways into the shelter shed

**Plate 4 (right)** Interior of one of the loose-boxes inside the building. The stone wall is an internal partition and the building would have had a hay-loft over.

<b>PRN</b>	49950	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73926724
<b>Site Type</b>	BARN	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

A small barn set at the south end of Penwernhir farmstead (PRN 49946). The barn has opposing doors across its centre to create a through-draft and allow threshing to be carried out. Ventilation slits high under the eaves show that grain was also stored in the barn, and wooden storage bays survive inside the west end of the building. The east gable has a door into the upper storey, suggesting that at least half of the barn was lofted. The roof is slated with small slates, the same as those seen on the stable (PRN 49951).

Behind the barn, to the south, a stone-lined wheel-pit survives in good condition, testimony to the use of water power to power crop-processing machinery. Interestingly, a raised, roughly circular platform survives in front (north) of the building. This is probably the standing for a horse engine, which would also have been used to provide power for crop processing. Brunskill (1978:152) comments that horse engines in the open air, as this one seems to have been, were normally the 'sweep' type, powered by up to four horses which stepped over the drive-shaft.

The building is generally in good to fair condition, and there are no immediately obvious problems.

### **Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the farmstead (PRN 49946) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Traditional Buildings) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49951	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73906724
<b>Site Type</b>	STABLE	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

### **Description**

A stone built stable on the west side of Penwernhir farmstead (PRN 49946). Map evidence suggests that this is one of the earliest buildings on the farm, dating to at least 1820-21, possibly earlier.

The stable is similar in style and construction to the other buildings on the farm (PRNs 49948 – 49950) and is fair to good condition. The roof is slated with very small slates – the same as those seen on the barn (PRN 49950) – and a few slates have slipped or are missing.

### **Recommendations**

Ideally, the roof should be re-slatted using slates the same size as the original ones. However, if this is not possible then temporarily covering the gaps in the slates – perhaps with plastic sheeting as a temporary measure until the building can be re-slatted – would help to prevent water from entering the building.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Traditional Buildings) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



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<b>PRN</b>	49952	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73616730
<b>Site Type</b>	RESERVOIR	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

### **Description**

The earthwork remains of a reservoir tank, part of Cwmmawr mine (PRN 25943). The tank was fed by a leat (PRN 49953) running roughly north to Nant Llust.

The reservoir banks stand up to around 1.5m, and a break in the southwest bank shows where a sluice gate would have controlled the outflow. A small, deep channel in front of the reservoir leads away to the southwest, towards the rest of the mine workings.

The site is in good condition, with a stable turf covering across the banks and in the interior of the tank.

### **Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 5** *Earth banks of the reservoir at Cwmmawr mine.*

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<b>PRN</b>	49953	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73606734
<b>Site Type</b>	LEAT	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

**Description**

A shallow earthwork marking the line of a leat which brought water from Nant Llest to a reservoir (PRN 49952) in Cwmmawr mine (PRN 25943).

The earthwork is in good condition and is under pasture.

**Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49954	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73576727
<b>Site Type</b>	ENGINE PLATFORM	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

**Description**

A set of concrete machinery platforms and supports. The construction of these supports implies that they are from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the mine was re-opened to extract lead and zinc, as well as small amounts of silver.

The concrete supports are stable and very robust. There are no immediate threats to the site.

**Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	49955	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73566726
<b>Site Type</b>	SHAFT	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN?		

### **Description**

A stone-lined mine shaft, part of Cwmmawr mine (PRN 25943). The shaft is fenced off for safety reasons.

Only a small amount of the shaft is visible now as much of it has been infilled with modern rubbish – the landowner informed Cambria Archaeology that a previous owner had put a car chassis into the shaft to block it. However, the stone lining visible is in good condition and the site is not overgrown or obscured by the fencing.

### **Recommendations**

No further dumping should take place in this site.

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 6** *A stone-lined shaft, now infilled with modern rubbish and fenced off.*



<b>PRN</b>	50081	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73556724
<b>Site Type</b>	ENGINE PLATFORM	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

### Description

A set of concrete and stone engine platforms and retaining walls set into a slope. At the highest level, a masonry structure may have supported some kind of chute or tippler. Below this, on a roughly level platform terraced into the hill, are a series of engine platforms and machinery supports constructed both of masonry and of concrete. Downslope from this are two large masonry retaining walls with an open area between them. This may be some kind of loading bay (Protheroe-Jones:1992:no.194). The mixture of stone and concrete construction implies that the site may have been used in both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century phases of mining.

The site is likely to have been an ore-crushing and/or processing plant. It is generally in good condition, although the ground in the 'loading bay' is very churned up and poached. Tracks indicate that heavy vehicles are regularly taken into this area, and it may have been used as a silage clamp in the past.

### Recommendations

Ground disturbance and vehicle movement in this area should be avoided in order to allow the grass cover to re-establish itself.

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 7** *Remains of a probable ore processing or crushing plant at Cwmmawr mine. The retaining walls on the right of the picture seem to be part of a loading area.*

<b>PRN</b>	50082	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73516720
<b>Site Type</b>	BUILDING	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL		

**Description**

A ruined stone building, part of the Cwmmawr mining complex (PRN 25943). The walls stand to around 1.2m on the east side but are almost entirely gone on the west side.

The date or function of the building is unknown.

**Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	50083	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73626727
<b>Site Type</b>	SHAFT	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

**Description**

An infilled shaft next to a stream. The shaft is visible as a slightly sunken circular area. Next to it is a point where the stream is carried underground by some kind of cutting – possibly accentuating a natural feature and diverting the stream in order to drain the shaft.

The features are in stable condition and there seem to be no real threats to them.

**Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	50084	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73356713
<b>Site Type</b>	TURBINE HOUSE	<b>Period</b>	MODERN		

### **Description**

A set of concrete platforms and walls set by a fast-flowing section of Nant y Cwn. These probably housed a water powered turbine, for generating power for the mines (Cwmmawr mine, PRN 25943).

The housing is in good condition and seems to be stable.

### **Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C



**Plate 8** *Remains of the housing for a turbine, next to a fast-flowing section of the stream.*

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<b>PRN</b>	50085	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73356708
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<b>Site Type</b>	EARTHWORKS; SPOIL TIPS	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL
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#### **Description**

An area of disturbed ground with earthworks indicative of spoil tips.

It is difficult to make out specific features in this area, but there are clearly several small spoil tips as well as platforms and footpaths or tracks. There is also a relict field boundary just visible on the south edge, shown on the 1891 and 1906 Ordnance Survey maps.

The 1891 Ordnance Survey map shows two small buildings in this area, but there was no trace seen of these on the day of the visit.

It seems that this area was initially used for spoil from the 19<sup>th</sup> century lead mining. Later on, when the mines were re-opened in 1911-13, the area was clearly re-used and spoil was dumped on top of the field boundaries.

The area seems stable and has a good vegetation cover.

#### **Recommendations**

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	50086	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73406717
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<b>Site Type</b>	EARTHWORK	<b>Period</b>	UNKNOWN
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#### **Description**

Earthworks of unknown date or function. There are two shallow 'scoops' which seem to represent extraction of some kind. It seems likely that these earthworks are associated with Cwmmawr mine (PRN 25943), but this is not certain.

The earthworks are turfed over and appear stable.

#### **Recommendations**

Maintain in current condition. See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** D

<b>PRN</b>	50087	<b>Site Name</b>	CWMMAWR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73596724
<b>Site Type</b>	TIP; SPOIL HEAP	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

#### **Description**

A large spoil tip running down to a flattened 'floor' just south of a blocked shaft (PRN 50083). This 'floor' is a broad, flat area with stone underfoot, and the landowner uses the area to feed sheep.

There is a small amount of grass on the tip, but in general the lack of soil has meant that there has been very little colonisation by vegetation.

#### **Recommendations**

The sheep feeder is set on a largely stone surface, and it therefore should not cause any erosion. However, the loose, unconsolidated nature of the tip material makes it vulnerable to erosion, and sheep-paths and scrapes could form very quickly. At present, there is no sign of this, and there is no problem with continuing to feed livestock here. However, the site should be monitored occasionally, and if erosion becomes a problem then feeding should be discontinued in this location.

See recommendations made for the mine (PRN 25943) and also section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**Site Category** C

<b>PRN</b>	50088	<b>Site Name</b>	PENWERNHIR	<b>Grid Reference</b>	SN73426731
<b>Site Type</b>	RIDGE AND FURROW	<b>Period</b>	POST-MEDIEVAL; MODERN		

#### **Description**

A field containing wide, straight plough ridges running downslope. These are probably the result of post-medieval ploughing. Buildings for the storage and processing of crops are present in the farmstead (PRN 49946) from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so these plough marks could potentially have originated at a similar date.

#### **Recommendations**

Management should aim to preserve these as visible landscape features. Ideally the site should be maintained under pasture. Any necessary harrowing or re-seeding should be carried out following the direction of the existing plough marks to avoid breaking the pattern down.

See section B2 of the Tir Gofal Farm Management Plan (Protection and Maintenance of Archaeological and Historic Features) for general recommendations.

**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 XVI.SE  
Ordnance Survey 1908 Cardiganshire XVI.SE  
Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawings 1820-21, sheet 311  
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Penwernhir

Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/3984  
Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 47874  
National Grid Reference SN73916725


 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


Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance  
including Grade 2 listed buildings

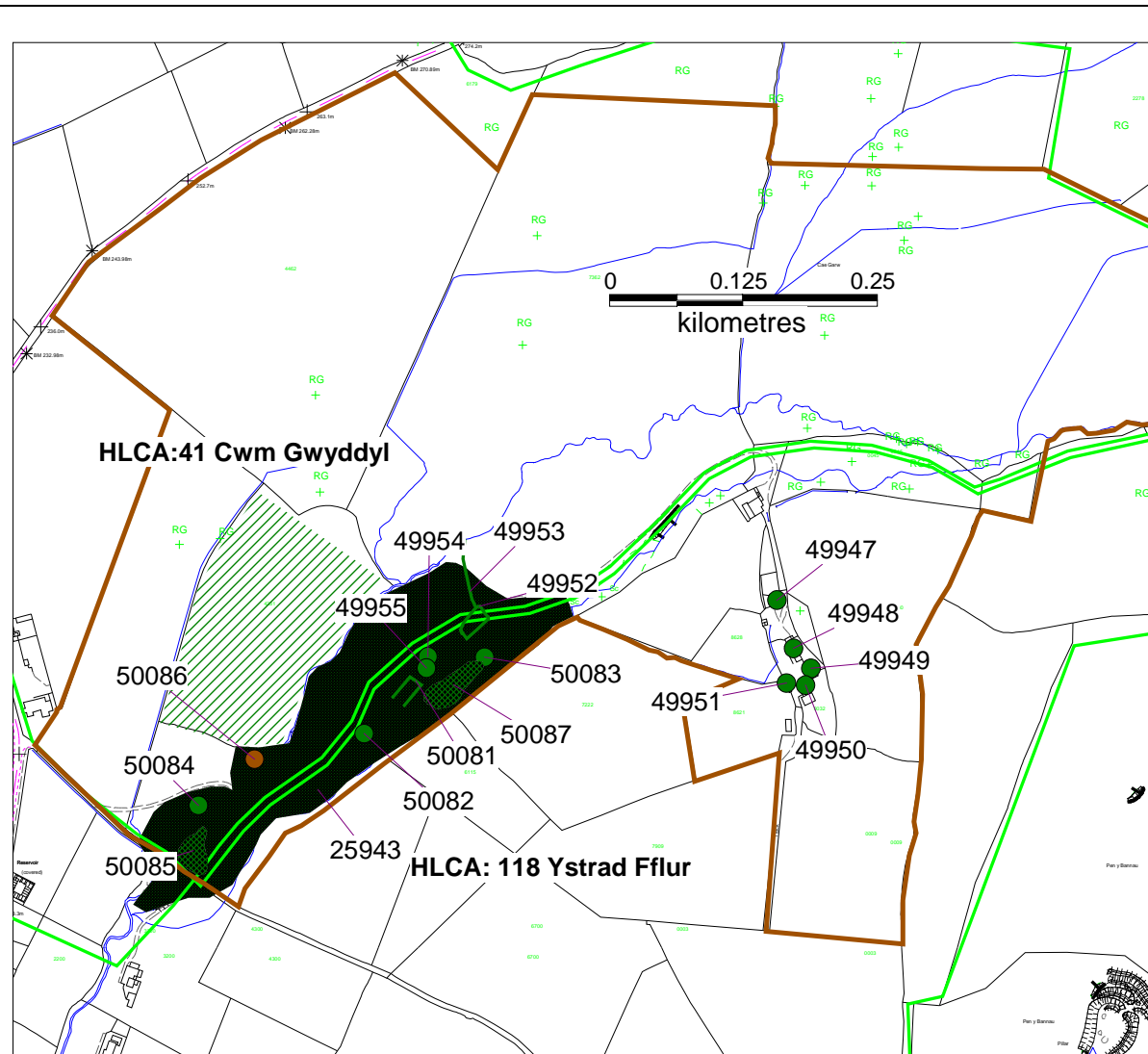
Site Category C - Local Importance

 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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Penwernhir – Cwmmawr mine  
 Tir Gofal Historic Environment Consultation  
 Countryside Council for Wales Reference W/11/3984  
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 47874  
 National Grid Reference SN73486718

 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

#### 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

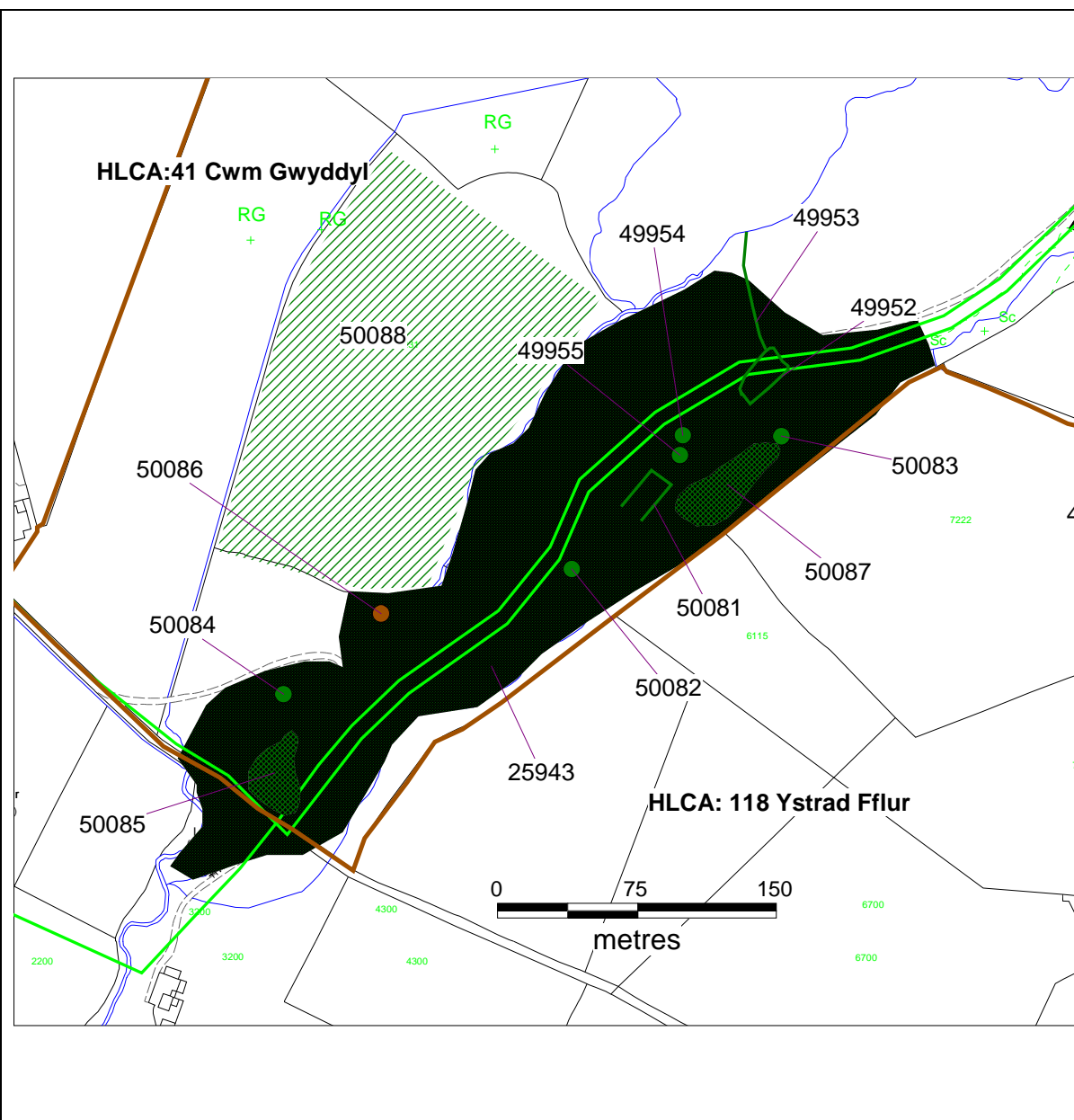
 Extent of the mining remains

 Plough marks

#### Site Category D – Unknown Importance

-  Sites requiring further investigation and sites with  
 no physical definition

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## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 41 CWM GWYDDYL

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 740693

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 596.9

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd Grange. In common with other granges, it is likely that Mefenydd was split into individual farms which were leased out on a commercial basis by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier. This is the possible origin of the farms in this area. On the Dissolution Strata Florida's lands were granted to the Earl of Essex. In 1630, most were purchased by the Crosswood estate. This area appears to have been marginal and dynamic - historical maps confirm the dynamic nature of the landscape (Gwnnws Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1847; NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 66, 68; NLW Crosswood 334; NLW Crosswood 340; NLW Morgan Richardson Deposit No 4 & 5). Late 18th- and early 19th-century estate maps show a variety of landscape types. In the south the area Bryn Capel is shown unenclosed, and that around Llethr Farm is shown as several small fields in unenclosed sheep-walk; Ysguboriau and Tynpontpren are similarly depicted. Generally in this period the area was one of scattered farms with small closes or paddocks set in unenclosed land. By the tithe survey (Gwnnws 1847) there had been enclosure of some of the sheep-walks and sub-division of larger fields. This process seems to have continued throughout the 19th century. In the 20th century the system has gone into decline, with the abandonment of farms and cottages, and fields left to revert to rough pasture.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An extensive wide, open valley that now contains a misfit stream. It ranges in height from 200m at the southern and northern ends to 340m on the eastern flanks. The appearance of an homogeneous area of unenclosed rough grazing and moorland, interspersed with improved pasture belies a complex landscape history. All of this area was formerly enclosed. The field size varies greatly from small to large, the smaller enclosures usually closer to farmsteads. The types of boundaries vary, but the most common type is the earth bank. Stone-faced banks and occasional dry-stone walls are also present. Hedges have either now gone or are very derelict and supplemented with wire fences. Very occasional boundaries are formed by ditches. Many fields have either been merged to form larger units, or are no longer in use. The overall impression of this area is of very rough grazing, tending towards moorland with peaty deposits in hollows. There are however considerable blocks of improved grazing. These tend to be located where the field system has been maintained. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farmsteads and cottages, including several deserted sites. Older buildings are stone-built with slate roofs. Modern buildings consist of rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile roofs. Several small conifer plantations are scattered across the landscape, but apart from these the area is essentially treeless. Remains of the metal mining industry are scattered across the eastern part of the area, but these are minor in comparison with the massive remains in the neighbouring area to the east.

In addition to abandoned cottages and remains of the metal mining industry, the recorded archaeology of this area is represented by two Bronze Age standing stones. These provide a time-depth to the landscape.

Borders of this area are not particularly well defined to the east and west with the pattern of large enclosures and poor quality land replicated in areas 23, 36, and 33. To the north and south and southwest there is some better definition with blocks of improved pasture and smaller enclosures (areas 38, 91, 96, 115, 118).

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 118 YSTRAD FFLUR

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 746664

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 334.8

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#### **Historic Background**

Strata Florida Abbey which is located in this area was founded in 1164. The foundation is attributed to Robert Fitz Stephen, but Lord Rhys ap Gruffydd took over the foundation, and it is to him that the first building in 1184 is recorded (Radford; Cadw 1992). The Abbey became a centre of Welsh culture and influence, and attracted many land grants which were to compose its granges. Land within this landscape area lay within the Pennardd Grange and Mefynydd Grange, perhaps as part of the abbey demesne. It is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, abbey granges and demesne were divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. This may have been the origin of the settlement pattern we see today. The granges were granted to the Earl of Essex on the dissolution, who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. Abbey demesne was acquired by John Stedman in 1567. He built Abbey Farm mansion adjacent to the abbey. The present house dates mainly to the late 17th-century, and is largely unchanged since the 1740s (Smith 1998, 270). However, Richard Stedman died intestate in 1746 and the estate passed to the Powells of Nanteos. Nanteos had considerable holdings here in the 19th century. A church to serve the local community was constructed on the north side of the abbey ruins in the 17th century. Later history of the area is unresearched, however, historic maps including the tithe maps (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1845; Gwnnws Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1847) and late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 66; NLW 45; 59, 62, 63, 71, 72), demonstrate that this area had achieved much of its present character (field systems, settlement pattern, lead mines) by then. Abbey Consols metal mine was most active in the mid to late 19th-century.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area consists of the valley floor of the Teifi to the east of Pontrhydfendigaid and the lower slopes of the valley side. It ranges in height from 180m on the valley floor to almost 300m at its northern end, where it climbs the valley side to include Pen-y-wern hir Farm. It is a landscape of small, irregular enclosures and scattered farms. Boundaries to the enclosures consist of earth banks with occasional stone-faced banks. Hedges on top of these banks are in fair to good condition, though off the valley floor they are becoming derelict. Most hedges are supplemented with wire fences. Occasionally a hedge supports distinctive hedgerow trees. Strata Florida Abbey has a concentration of dry-stone wall boundaries around it. There are some small stands of deciduous woodland. Improved grazing is the dominant landuse, with some pockets of rougher grazing on the valley floor. The ruins of Strata Florida Abbey, the post-Medieval Church and Great Abbey Farm mansion and associated outbuildings provide a dramatic focus to this landscape. Other buildings are stone-built with slate roofs, modern buildings are of rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile roofs. The stone buildings and spoil heaps of old lead mines provide a distinctive landscape component to this area.

Recorded archaeology of this area is clearly focused on the abbey and its immediate environs. Greater time depth to the landscape is provided by a Roman coin hoard, a Dark Age inscribed stone, and reference to a Medieval mill site.

To the north unenclosed land (areas 31) and large enclosures (area 35) provide a sharp border with this landscape area. Enclosed land (areas 30, 37) to the south provides a less clear border - here there is a merging of landscape areas. To the west lies the village of Pontrhydfendigaid (area 32).

**Penwernhir  
W/11/3984**

**REPORT NUMBER: 2004/12**

**February 2004**

This report has been prepared by Polly Groom

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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 Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature ..... Date.....

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have  
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