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## **TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ( HE2)**

Prepared for:  
Frondeg, Pencarreg, Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire, SA40 9QP

Tir Gofal Reference No  
W/12/4107, 4107a & 4107b.



Prepared by  
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Farm Visited on the  
**7<sup>th</sup> May 2004**

Project Record No. 49858  
Report No. 2004/61

## SECTION A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

### Historic landscape character:

Frondeg comprises three separate land holdings in the community of Pencarreg, Carmarthenshire. Holdings 4107 and 4107a. lie to the north and east of Pencarreg village, on the south side of the Teifi valley.

Aside from the settlement nucleus of Pencarreg, the landscape here is characterised by dispersed settlement in a network of medium sized irregular fields, with pockets of woodland on higher ground. This landscape was largely in place by the time of the tithe drawing (1841), although is likely to have much earlier origins.

Land at the home farm of Frondeg (holding 4107) was enclosed comparatively recently. Map evidence suggests that the present field pattern was established through a programme of large scale woodland reclamation sometime between 1841 (Pencarreg Parish tithe map) and 1891 (Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition). A few fields on the edges of the present holding area may have their origins in squatter settlement before the nineteenth century.

Holding 4107a. falls within a long established field pattern in the valley bottom and borders the now disused Manchester & Milford Railway (PRN 14485) to the east.

Further variety is represented on holding 4107b. which occupies part of the former mountain common of Pencarreg. The large rectangular fields here are typical of systematic enclosure during the later nineteenth century.

### Archaeological and historical content:

The home farm of Frondeg (holding 4107) contains a wide variety of archaeological sites representing great time depth. Of considerable interest is a large defended enclosure (PRN 9913), on high ground, overlooking the Teifi Valley. The true origins of the enclosure are not known, although it is similar to many hillforts, which are commonly assigned to the Iron Age (600BC to 43AD). Such sites are commonly viewed as defensive structures, although recent interpretations suggest that they were also built with an element of ostentation and display in mind. Excavated examples have revealed traces of settlement such as round houses, other, post built structures and storage pits. The enclosure fell out of use and the site and its surroundings had become wooded over by the early nineteenth century, when historic maps first become available.

Remaining archaeology at Frondeg relates to post-medieval settlement. Several cottages appear scattered about the holding on nineteenth century maps. The former cottage of Pen-llain (PRN 50809) in the west of the farm is reputed locally to have origins as a *ty unnos* (custom stated that a man could live on common land if he could build a house in one night). The true origins of Pen-llain are now lost to us although its historic location, on the fringes of a large expanse of woodland, is a likely location for squatter encroachment before the nineteenth century. Two further cottages, Blaen-pant (PRN 50807) and an un-named cottage (PRN 50808) are also now lost with modern buildings erected on their sites.

No specific archaeological sites or features were identified on the other two holdings (4107a,b).

## C) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

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

These are divided into three types:

- C1. Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- C2. Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- C3. Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

### **General requirements**

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

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

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

**“Listed Buildings” also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice**

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

# 1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES: Archaeological Sites, Earthwork Monuments, Ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

## Location and description:

A search of the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held by Cambria Archaeology has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

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

This information has been supplemented by a field visit by Cambria Archaeology

No on Map	PRN	Site Name/Type	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
1	9913	Blaen-Maes, Defended Enclosure	Iron Age	SN54444521	A	Specific Prescription (See Below)

A defended enclosure on high ground above the Teifi valley near Pencarreg. It is first identified on aerial photographs taken in 1946 as a large concentric ovoid enclosure. Showing as dark parchmarks in pasture, the site comprises a large outer enclosure 220m E-W enclosing a much smaller internal enclosure c.90m E-W. As a well preserved example of its type, with upstanding earthworks, the site is of national importance.

It occupies the summit of a hill, bounded by steep slopes on all but the E side, where land begins to rise again.

The outer earthwork defences are scarped on the W and N sides (to 3m) to enhance the defensive possibilities of the hillslope. A terrace on the down-slope side may represent an outer ditch. On the E, the defences consist of a pronounced earthwork bank (c.1m high x 3m wide) and outer ditch (c.4m wide x 1.5m deep). The S defences, on neighbouring farmland, were not seen. A narrow hollow way breaks the defences on the W side and may indicate an original entrance.

No earthworks were noted which relate directly to the inner enclosure. A wide U-shaped depression, of a similar diameter, breaks the otherwise convex profile of the hill summit.

There are extensive views on all but the E and SE sides, which are obscured by higher ground.

The enclosure falls between 2 pasture fields and a former forestry plantation (now also grazed).

Stable pasture dominates, although grass cover is broken by scattered tree stumps in the E bank and ditch. The boundary bank, which formerly separated plantation from pasture, overlies these earthworks. The line of the W defences is perpetuated by the present hedge boundary. The monument was found to be in a stable condition at the time of the archaeological farm visit, with no specific management threats identified.



Earthwork defences on the north-west side of the enclosure. The line is now perpetuated by the present hedge boundary.

No on Map	PRN	Site Name/Type	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50806	Trackway	Post Medieval	SN53914526; SN54394540	C	General Prescriptions/ Whole Farm Code

A well defined trackway, crossing high ground to the east of Pencarreg. It appears on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1834 and the parish tithe map (1841) passing through a large expanse of woodland, towards a number of isolated cottages to the east.

The trackway is visible as a hollow way (c.4m wide), sometimes flanked by outgrown hedges, for much of its length across farmland. Some sections are still used as a farm trackway. No specific management threats were identified.



A section of the trackway, now flanked by grown out hedges.

No on Map	PRN	Site Name/Type	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50807	Cottage, Blaen-pant	Post Medieval	SN54324499	D	No Recommendations
A cottage shown on the 1841 parish tithe map and named Blaen-pant on the 1891, 1906 Ordnance Survey maps. A modern bungalow now occupies the site. No traces of the cottage survive.						

No on Map	PRN	Site Name/Type	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50808	Cottage	Post Medieval	SN54584492	D	No Recommendations
A cottage shown on the Ordnance Survey Old Series map (1834) and the parish tithe map (1841). It is absent from later map sources. The modern farmstead of Frondeg has since been built on the site. The cottage no longer survives.						

No on Map	PRN	Site Name/Type	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50809	Cottage, Pen-llain	Post Medieval	SN53904527	B	General Prescriptions/ Whole Farm Code
<p>The former cottage of Pen-llain. No traces of the dwelling remain today other than some scattered stone and a level platform c.15m NE-SW by 30m NW-SE.</p> <p>Local residents remember it as a low, mud and stone walled building with thatch surviving beneath the corrugated iron roof, and a substantial gable fireplace with wicker chimney hood. It was apparently demolished some 15-20 years ago, after the elderly owner passed away. It is reputed to have its origins as a <i>ty unnos</i>. Its historic location, on the fringes of a large expanse of woodland (shown on the Ordnance Survey Old Series map of 1834) could well imply squatter encroachment on marginal land. Apparently no ownership deeds were recovered following its abandonment, further supporting this presumption. The cottage platform is now used as a location for storing rubble stone.</p>						





The site of Pen-llain cottage today.

No on Map	PRN	Site Name/type	Period	NGR	Importance (status)	Management
	50810	Shelter Belt	Post Medieval	SN54454510; SN54614522	C	General Prescriptions/ Whole Farm Code

A long, curving shelter belt visible as two parallel lines of beech trees, set 20m apart. It climbs a steep hill to the north-west of Frondeg farmstead for 200m before continuing eastwards across neighbouring farmland for a further 500m. The present landowner believes that it was planted by his grandfather to provide shelter in this otherwise exposed location.



Part of the shelter belt to the north-west of Frondeg farmstead.

## Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

1. Ensure the survival of visible features.
2. Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
3. Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

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

## Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements – Section C

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



## **Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.**

The following individual sites and monuments are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

### **Landscape**

Some hedgerow planting has been proposed on holding 4107b. One of the aims of the farm visit is to ensure that any such proposals are in keeping with existing landscape character.

The holding occupies part of the former mountain common of Mynydd Pencarreg, which was enclosed into a pattern of regular, rectangular fields in the later nineteenth century. This landscape retains an open, moorland character today. Fields are typically enclosed by post and wire fences on low earth banks, but plantations, shelter belts and hedgerows are beginning to contribute to an enclosed feel in some areas.

Holding 4107b. itself retains an open aspect, enclosed as it is by post and wire fences. A small forestry plantation lies in the south of the holding. Boundaries on adjoining land to the south-east (also formerly mountain common) are now supplemented by hedges. Land is more open to the west but hedges are giving some areas an enclosed feel here also.

The aim here is to maintain an open character as far as is practically possible. Planting hedges on open moorland areas is not recommended, but the character of land in the south-east of the holding is already altered by the neighbouring enclosed fields. It is felt that adding hedges in this part of the holding (which is also lower and less visible) would have less impact on the wider landscape. The presumption should be in favour of fewer, rather more hedges.

### **Individual Sites and Features**

#### **9913 Blaen Maes, Defended Enclosure**

1. To remove the monument from future cultivation (including a 10m buffer strip).
2. Future management to involve the monitoring of trees growing on the outer enclosure banks. Unstable trees should be felled before being allowed to fall naturally (in order to prevent root bowl damage from damaging the profile of the earthworks and buried archaeological remains).
3. Tree stumps in the former plantation to be left in place, and not uprooted (in order to protect the profile of the earthworks and buried archaeological remains).

## References

### Maps

Ordnance Survey Old Series 1834 Sheet 57

Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire Sheet VII NE

Ordnance Survey 1891 Carmarthenshire Sheet VIII SW

Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire Sheet VII NE

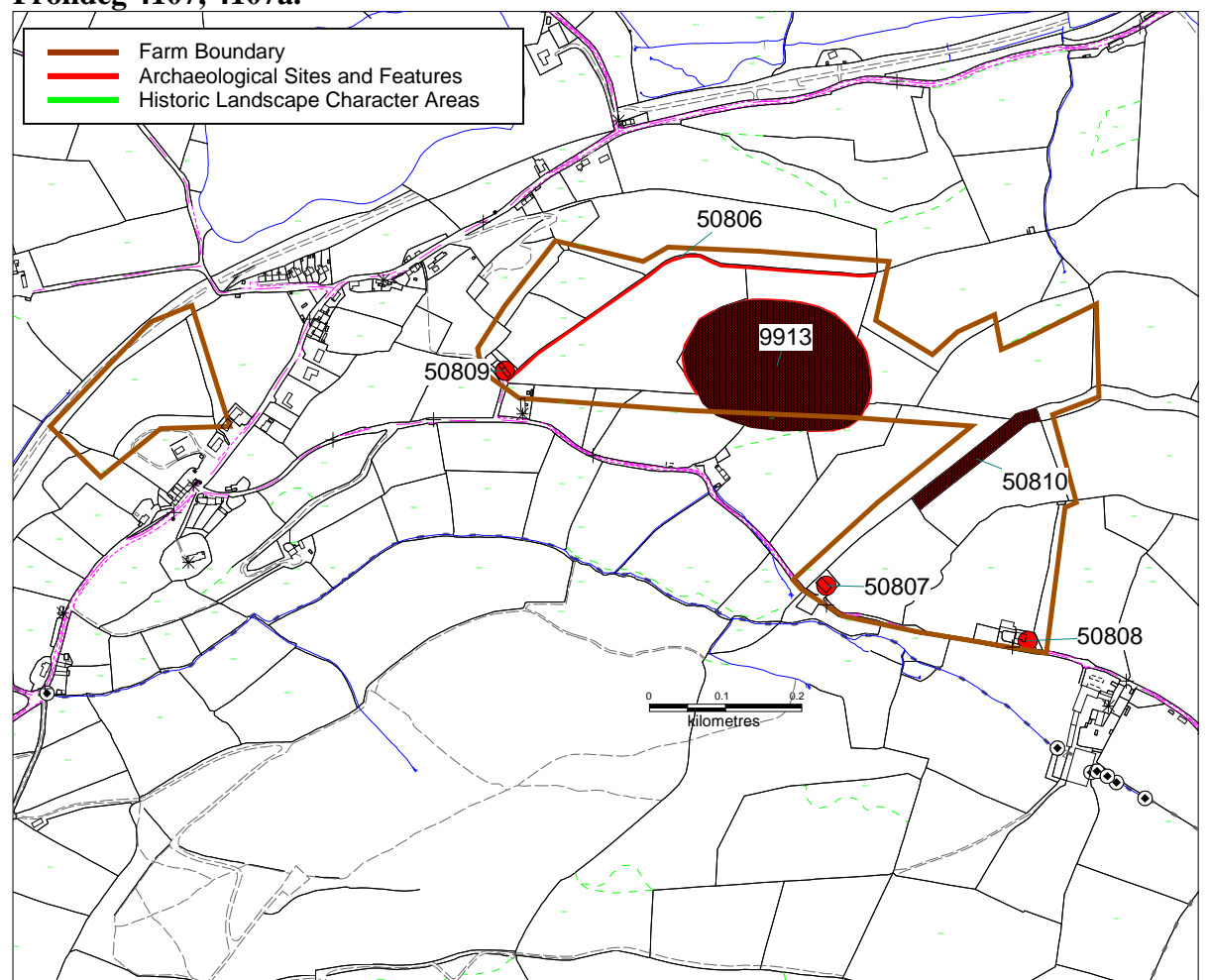
Ordnance Survey 1907 Carmarthenshire Sheet VIII SW

Tithe Map & Apportionment 1841 Pencarreg parish

### Other Sources

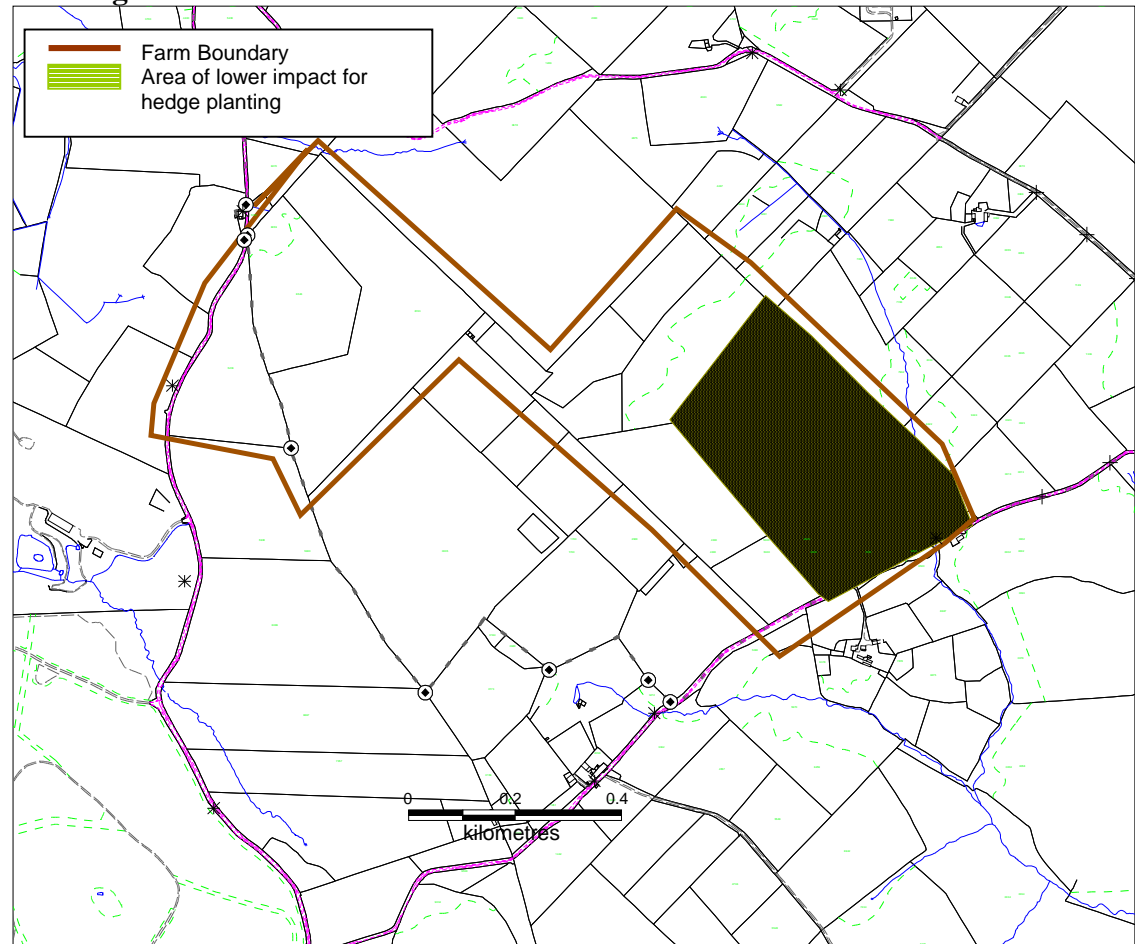
Vertical Aerial Photographs (Meridian Airmaps 1955, 250-240 35182-3; RAF 106G-UK-1471 6045-6)

#### Frondeg 4107, 4107a.



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### Frondeg 4107b.



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**Frondeg  
W/12/4107**

**Report No. 2004/61  
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