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Prepared for:
Pwll yr Heirn
W/11/4218



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Report No. **2004/93**
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A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Pwll yr Heirn is centred on NGR SN32534324 in Llandyfriog community, Ceredigion. The surrounding landscape comprises the low rolling hills, occasionally broken by steep sided river valleys, to the north of the Teifi. Established broadleaved woodland occupies some of the steeper slopes and together with grown out hedge boundaries, gives an enclosed feel to some areas.

Although Newcastle Emlyn lies just two kilometres to the south, settlement in this area is dispersed and characterised by isolated farmsteads. These are set within a landscape of medium sized fields which tend to the regular. This general landscape pattern was in place by the time of the Ordnance Surveyors Drawings (1811) and remains little altered today. Some field boundaries have been removed to allow for the creation of larger land parcels and several cottage sites shown have also been lost.

Industry is little represented in this landscape but there are a number of small, redundant quarries, presumably for building stone scattered about.

Archaeological and Historic Content

Evidence of rural settlement and land-use provides the mainstay of archaeological content on this farm.

Pwll yr Heirn farmstead (PRN 52049) appears on the Ordnance Surveyors Drawings (1811) but is not shown in detail until the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Buildings are shown ranged around all sides of a rectangular yard in a fashion typical of the nineteenth century. Only the long ranges on the north-east and south-west sides are still present today. Little is known of the other buildings beyond what is shown on historic maps but it clear that the farmstead was designed for the needs of mixed arable and livestock husbandry. Despite modernisation, many of the original elements survive and the farmstead retains good historic character.

Pwll yr Heirn has come to be associated with several local legends. A popular tradition is that a gaol (PRN 52048), where men were held in irons was once sited here and it may be out of this context that the place-name “Pwll yr Heirn” has emerged. A building marked on the Ordnance Surveyors Drawing (1811) is believed to be that described. Few traces of the site survive today beyond some relict enclosure walls and a low earth and stone platform.

Another interesting story is that, in the era of the Turnpike trusts (in the nineteenth century) travellers would cut through land at Pwll yr Heirn in order to avoid paying tolls. Sections of this route (PRN 52050) are still in use as a farm track today.

Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

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

These are divided into three types:

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

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

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.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites 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 (01558 823131). This enables them 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:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:
Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the 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 Cambria Archaeology.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
1	(52048)	Post Medieval cottage?; gaol?	SN32134333	B	Specific
<p>The site of a former building, believed locally to have been a gaol, above the Afon Ceri. An un-named building is marked on the Ordnance Surveyors Drawings (1811) but is absent from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 and was presumably abandoned by that time. Local belief is that criminals were held in irons here as a punishment less than hanging. The tithe map (1840) is incomplete but the apportionment lists at least one cottage in the lands belonging to "Pwllyrheirn." It is possible that the building could also have served a domestic function during its lifetime.</p> <p>Few surface traces survive today. Relict stone walls define an enclosure (18m east-west by 12m) with the south side left open. In the south of the enclosure is a low rubble and earth platform (10m east-west by 6m north-south) which probably marks the site of the building. Woodland has since become established around the site.</p>					



The enclosure walls remain intact.

[\(15977\)](#)

**Post Medieval
quarry**

SN32584351 C

Generic

Marked as Old Quarry on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. The quarry is now disused. It consists of a series of workings into the hillslope, and extends for a distance of some 50m. The quarry is now partly obscured by vegetation cover.



The quarry is overgrown in places.

[\(52047\)](#)

**Post Medieval sand
pit**

SN32134336 C C

Generic

An Old Sand Pit is shown at this location on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. The site is obscured by vegetation. No traces of the sand pit were observed.

[\(52050\)](#)

**Post Medieval
trackway**

SN32174328 C

Generic

Marked on the Ordnance Surveyors Drawings (1811) and 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1889). Local legend states that this track formed part of a route used by travellers who wished to avoid paying tolls on the main road.



Looking south along the trackway. Stone gateposts are visible in the foreground.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

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:

Site 1 on MAP 1

[\(52048\)](#)

SN32134333

In addition to the Generic Management Prescriptions listed above the following management is recommended.

The site is known to lie within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.) as defined under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The following recommendations are suggested as ideal management and should only be undertaken if agreement can be reached with the Countryside Council for Wales (C.C.W.).

The site was found to be in a stable condition but the following steps could be taken to reduce damage to built structural and earthwork remains in future. The management aim is to enhance the visibility of the site and prevent damage to the boundary walls and earthwork remains.

1. Monitor existing trees on built structural and earthwork remains. Unstable trees to be cut off at the roots before being allowed to fall naturally. This will prevent damage by trees/ branches collapsing onto the walls.
2. Young trees growing on/ within the enclosure walls should be cut off at the roots and spot treated to prevent re-growth.

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
PWLL YR HEIRN; PWLLYRHEYRN; PWLL YR HAIARN (52049)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN32534324	B		Generic

Pwll yr Heirn farmstead occupies sloping ground above the Afon Ceri. Farm buildings are ranged around a rectangular yard with the house at the end of the north-east range. In the centre of the farmstead is a pond which has recently been restored. Despite modernisation, the farmstead retains good historic character. Traditional buildings flank the north-east and south-west sides of the yard, those on the other two sides having since been replaced by modern agricultural sheds. The historic farm buildings are stone built, with slate roofs and represent a mixed agricultural economy. The long north-east range includes farmhouse, lofted cart shed, threshing barn and separate end stall. On the opposite side of the yard is an open fronted cow shed with attached pigsty, which has been sensitively converted to a stable in recent years.

Pwll yr Heirn is marked on the Ordnance Surveyors Drawings (1811) but no detailed accurate information on the layout of individual buildings is provided until the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 when the present layout is shown for the first time.



The threshing barn on the north-east side of the farmyard.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Promote the survival of traditional buildings on the farm
- Prevent progressive decay of traditional buildings through neglect.
- Promote the sympathetic use of traditional buildings within sustainable farming practice.

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Cambria Archaeology Historic Environment Record for the application area

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This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the HE1 report for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Ordnance Surveyors Drawings 1811 Sheet 186

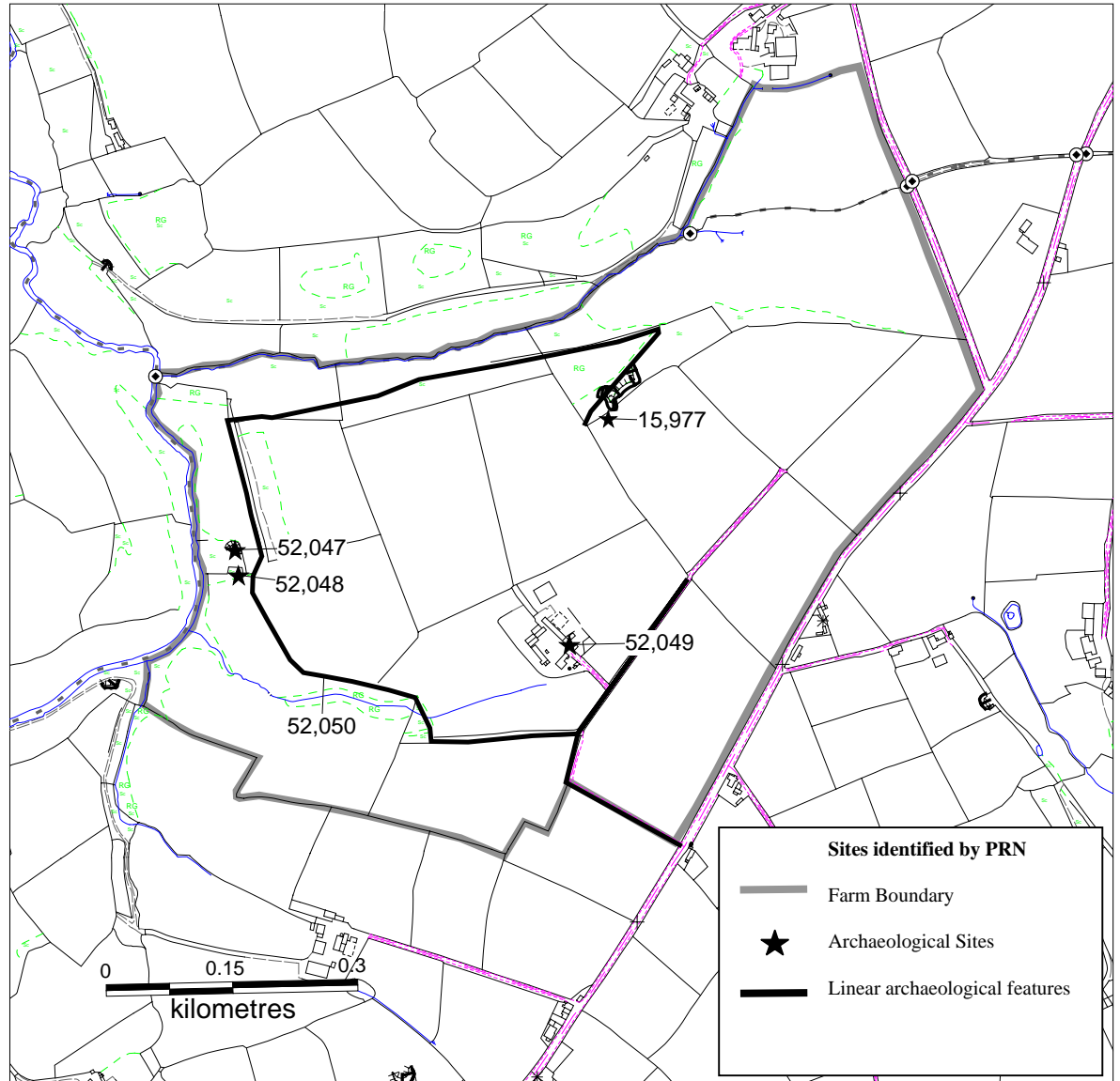
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