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



**The deserted farmstead of Blaen Gorffen**

**Prepared for: Bronmwyn**

**Tir Gofal Reference No. W/11/4270**

**ACA Report No. 2005/3  
Project Record No. 49913**

**Prepared by  
Alice Pyper**

**Other documents enclosed:**

**HLCA 13: Bryngwyn Bach  
HLCA 27: Sunnyhill and Old Abbey Farm  
HLCA 28: Bwlchddwyallt and Blaengorffen  
HLCA 30: Heolfryn, Dolbeudlay and Brynhope  
HLCA 126: Tai-Unnos**

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## **A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

### **2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

#### **Historic Landscape Character**

Bronmwyn Farm consists of three holdings each lying within the community of Ystrad Fflur and within the Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest of Upland Ceredigion (Cadw 1998). The registered landscape has been further studied to provide a landscape character assessment; by analysing components such as field shapes, boundary types, settlement pattern, industry etc. it is possible to divide the landscape into historic landscape character areas. Each area comprises components that are distinct from its neighbours. Copies of the relevant character area descriptions are appended to this report.

These holdings lie within the character areas of Bryngwyn Bach (HLCA 13), Sunnyhill and Old Abbey Farm (HLCA 27), Bwlchddwyallt and Blaengorffen (HLCA 28), Heolfryn, Dolbeudlay and Brynhope (HLCA 30) and Tai Unnos (HLCA 126), further descriptions are included to the end of the report.

Historically this area would have formed part of the Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange, which towards the end of the medieval period was leased out into individual farms. After the dissolution of the monasteries much of this area passed into the hands of the estates, first Crosswood and then Sunnyhill, which was part of the Nanteos estate. Sunnyhill was sold up at the time of the first World War and sale catalogues and maps are held by the present owners of Bronmwyn.

Holding W/11/4270, the largest of the three, consists of a large area of mountain grazing which historically was unenclosed except towards the east and west extremes of the holding, where dispersed settlements had become established.

Holding W/11/4270a lies at the north east end of a ridge lying on the east side of Cors Caron. The holding includes flat improved land at the east side of the bog and rises steeply to the south and east. The steeper slopes are cloaked in deciduous woodland. The pattern of enclosure is of small and irregular fields around the farmstead of Bronmwyn merging into larger enclosures on the higher ground. This pattern had been established prior to the Tithe survey of 1842.

The third and smallest holding consists of a couple of fields to the southwest of Ponrhydfendigaid, here again the enclosure pattern of medium sized regular fields had been established before the tithe survey of 1842.

#### **Archaeological and Historical Content**

There is a great deal of archaeological and historic interest represented on this farm, spanning a significant time depth. A bronze age round barrow (PRN 9010) lies on the upland of holding W/11/4270, in an area where other monuments of this type may yet lie unrecorded. The former abbey of Strata Florida lies outside, but adjacent to the

main holding of W/11/4270a, suggesting that this area was settled the 12th century, although no archaeology relating to this period has been recorded within the holding of Bronmwyn. Industrial remains from the late 19th century have also left an impressive range of archaeological features relating to lead mining (PRN 19414). Each of the holdings demonstrate a variety of settlement evidence, from the 19th century steadings of Bronmwyn (PRN 51878) and Blaen Gorffen (PRN 51885) to the possible medieval longhouse at Gwndwn Gwynau (PRN 7169) and the remains of the tiny cottage and enclosure (PRN 53134) on W/11/4270b.

### **Key Objectives**

The key objectives for the historic environment of this farm are the continued preservation of mining remains at Bronmwyn (PRN 19414) and also the retention and conservation, where possible, of settlement evidence, including those upstanding remains at Blaen Gorffen (PRN 51885) and Gwndwn Gwynau (PRN 7169) and those of which little or no visible remains survive including Castell (PRN 53134), Pant Meini (PRN 51879) and Pen y Garn (PRN 51877) but where buried archaeology undoubtedly survives.

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## 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.

	<b>Name (&amp; PRN)</b>	<b>Period/Site type</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Status SAM/listing</b>	<b>Management required</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BRONMWYN MINE</b> <b>(19414)</b>	<b>Post Medieval lead mine</b>	<b>SN7137864462</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Specific</b>
	Extensive disused lead mine workings are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The mining remains lie either side of the road from Tregaron to Pontrhydfendiad. To the east of the road at least 5 separate shafts are recorded along with various buddle pits, wheel pits and spoil heaps. To the west of the road a large rectangular building extends parallel to the field boundary. At the time of the farm visit this area was under pasture, to the west of the road there is no trace of any building but a fine stone arched entrance, with 1870 inscribed on the key stone, leads to a level under the road. To the east of the road much of the mining remains have turfed over. However, the shafts are still visible and masonry wheel pits, and buddle pits survive. At the time of the farm visit (December 2004) there was some erosion around the lower buddle pit and poaching of the ground surface by cattle.				
					
	<i>Bronmwyn mining remains include this well preserved buddle pit</i>				
	<b>GWNDWN-GWYNAU</b> <b>(7169)</b>	<b>Medieval?;Post Medieval? farmhouse</b>	<b>SN73876288</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Generic</b>
	Upland farmstead. The ruined dwelling may be in the longhouse tradition. Recorded by RCAHM in 1976 and noted as having a wickerwork chimney hood. When the farmstead was visited in 2002 it was noted that the condition of this farmhouse has certainly deteriorated since 1976 but the lateral walls and gable ends are still fairly complete.				
	<b>BRYNGWYN BACH</b>	<b>Bronze Age round</b>	<b>SN73266200</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Generic</b>

**(South of) (9010) barrow**

A burial cairn measuring 6m in diameter, c. 0.5m high. Situated in a slight saddle on Bryngwyn Bach.

**PEN Y GARN (51877) Post Medieval SN7141364528 C Generic  
cottages**

A cottage is marked on the 1889 and 1905 Ordnance Survey (sheet XXI.07) There is no visible trace of the cottage remains.

**BRONMWYN (51878) Post Medieval SN7163264334 B Generic  
farmstead**

Bronmwyn Farmstead currently consists of the farmhouse and cow shed (51892) and form part of a continuous range of buildings. Above the farmhouse is a small outbuilding (51893) and opposite, not quite parallel, is the barn and stable (53132). At the lower end of the farmstead, on the other side of the stream is a shelter shed (53133). The stream was diverted above the farmstead and a leat carried water to a water wheel situated between the cow shed and stream. This is clearly shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1905). The water wheel was removed after the stream flooded in 1946.

**PANT MEINI (51879) Post Medieval SN7168364316 B Generic  
cottage**

A cottage marked on the Caron Parish Tithe, 1842 and continues to be recorded on the 1889 and 1905 Ordnance Survey maps. There are no upstanding remains of this cottage site. However, the outline of the cottage enclosure is still visible and a quantity of loose stone lies near the boundary fence. An uneven ground surface in this area suggests that the remains of the ruined cottage lie just beneath the turf.



*The remains of a cottage called Pant Meini*

**(51880) Post Medieval SN7152764094 B Generic  
powder magazine**

A powder magazine shown on the 1st edition (1889) Ordnance Survey map (sheet XXI.07) The walls of this powder magazine stand to a height of just over a metre. It is a small square, single cell, building. A large ash tree has grown up in the corner of this building.





*The remains of a powder magazine lies in the woodland above the mine shaft.*

(51882)

**Post Medieval  
shaft**

**SN7158764011 B**

**Generic**

A mine shaft is located at the very bottom of the valley on the west side of the stream. A cavernous opening has been cut into the hillside, leading to a level which is said to join up with the level below the Tregaron and Pontrhydfendigaid road.

(51883)

**Post Medieval  
wheel pit**

**SN7160163970 B**

**Generic**

A masonry lined wheel pit lies on the valley floor adjacent to the stream, it approaches 2 metres in depth and approximately 0.4m wide. There are four vertical slots in the masonry lining. The pit is aligned towards the stream and a few metres down there is a stone lined culvert opening towards the stream. The wheel lies in woodland and small mature trees have grown up around it, which may pose a threat to it by tree fall.



*The exit for the tail race, taking water away from the wheel pit in the background.*

(51884)

**Post Medieval  
sheep shelter**

**SN7185062819 C**

**Generic**

A sheep shelter, consisting of a linear wall, c 0.28 metres long. The wall has collapsed in the centre and the north end.



**BLAEN GORFFEN**  
**(51885)**

**Post Medieval**  
**farmstead**

**SN7203262618 B**

**Generic**

A disused farmstead, the house is now ruinous but the barn is used for handling sheep. The farmstead was reputedly abandoned in 1958-60.

**BLAEN GORFFEN**  
**(51887)**

**Post Medieval cow**  
**shed**

**SN7200562623 B**

**Generic**

Ruined cow shed, parallel to cow shed and barn PRN 51886. West wall survives to door head height. Self seeded ash trees have grown up within the building.



*The remains of the cow shed consist largely of this west wall*

**BLAEN GORFFEN**  
**(51888)**

**Post Medieval**  
**farmhouse**

**SN7203462586 B**

**Generic**

A ruined 19th century farmhouse. It is constructed in stone rubble and has the remains of a slate roof. The chimney stacks are yellow brick.



*The farmhouse at Blaen Gorffen was occupied until the late 1950s*

**BLAEN GORFFEN**  
**(51889)**

**Post Medieval**  
**pigsty**

**SN7205962615 B**

**Generic**

A stone built pigsty lies to the side of the Gorffen stream. The roof has gone completely but the walls stand more or less to full height. The yard lies to the west of the covered area.



*The pigsty at Blaen Gorffen and associated enclosure walls.*

**BLAEN GORFFEN**  
**(51890)**

**Post Medieval**  
**footbridge**

**SN7202562647 B**

**Generic**

A footbridge constructed out of large slabs of stone are placed across the Nant Gorffen below Blaen Gorffen farmstead (four remain in place but there are spaces inbetween for several more). The stones are set on masonry revetment walls either side of the stream.



*The footbridge at Blaen Gorffen is constructed from massive stone slabs.*

**BLAEN GORFFEN**  
**(51891)**

**Post Medieval**  
**building**

**SN7205162628 B**

**Generic**

The 1889 Ordnance Survey map indicates a small square building on the north side of the stream opposite the farmstead of Blaen Gorffen. There is little remaining of this building, but fragments of a stone wall project from the field bank.

**CASTELL (53134)**

**Post Medieval**  
**enclosure**

**SN7262666303 B**

**Generic**

The site of a cottage and enclosure is marked on the tithe map of Caron parish of 1842. It is named 'Castell' in the associated apportionment. The following Ordnance Survey maps of 1889 and 1905 (sheet XXI.03) show only the enclosure, the cottage is no marked. The enclosure survives as a low earthwork bank with a few isolated grown out hedgerow trees. The site of the cottage also survives as a distinctive building platform. This area is under permanent pasture.

## **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 3 on MAP 1**

**BRONMWYN MINE (19414)**

**SN7137864462**

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

Elements of this site are vulnerable to erosion by stock. Ideally this site should not be grazed when the ground conditions are wet.

## 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
1	<b>BRONMWYN</b> ( <a href="#">53133</a> )	<b>Post Medieval shelter shed</b>	<b>SN7167764381</b>	<b>B</b>		<b>Specific</b>
	<p>A stone built shelter shed lies to the northeast of the farmstead of Bronmwyn, it appears on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map. The shed has three stone walls and a corrugated tin roof. On the long wall is wooden feed rack and manger. A stone slabbed floor survives within the building and extends to pave an area in front. The ageing tin roof is beginning to allow water in.</p>  <p><i>The shelter shed will benefit from reroofing in slate.</i></p>					
2	<b>BLAEN GORFFEN</b> ( <a href="#">51886</a> )	<b>Post Medieval barn</b>	<b>SN7199062623</b>	<b>B</b>		<b>Generic</b>
	<p>Farm building, stone built, slate roof, red brick dressings around the openings. Cow shed at upper end. The barn at the lower end has been partially dismantled only the walls stand. Stone flagged floors survive in places. This modest, but characteristic farm building is in a vulnerable condition at present, some of the roofing slates have become dislodged and the stonework is also collapsing in places.</p>					





**FFLUR (19416)**

**Post Medieval  
sunday school**

**SN71386454 B**

**Generic**

Former Calvinistic Methodist schoolroom. Known to have been in existence in 1905. Converted into a house, and currently empty.

**BRONMWYN (51878)**

**Post Medieval  
farmstead**

**SN7163264334 B**

**Generic**

Bronmwyn Farmstead currently consists of the farmhouse and cow shed (51892) which form part of a continuous range of buildings. Above the farmhouse is a small outbuilding (51893) and opposite, not quite parallel, is the barn and stable (53132). At the lower end of the farmstead, on the other side of the stream is a shelter shed (53133). The stream was diverted above the farmstead and leat carried water to a water wheel situated between the cow shed and stream. This is clearly shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1905). The water wheel was removed after the stream flooded in 1946.



*Bronmwyn Farmstead, with the cow shed (PRN 51892), farm house and outbuilding (PRN 51893)*

**BRONMWYN (51892)**

**Post Medieval cow  
shed**

**SN7162164365 B**

**Generic**

A low stone built and slated roof cow shed adjoins the farmhouse at Bronmwyn.

**BRONMWYN (51893)**

**Post Medieval  
building**

**SN7160164344 B**

**Generic**

A small one storey building lies at the top of the farmyard at Bronmwyn, to the southwest of the farmhouse.



This building has a single doorway with a four pane sash window and a chimney.

**BRONMWYN** ([53132](#))

**Post Medieval  
combination farm  
building**

**SN7160564379 B**

**Generic**

A long range including a lofted cart shed at the southern end, a barn with double doors to full height, and a lofted stable at the northern end. The stable retains wooden stall partitions and cobbled flooring. This building has recently been reroofed and is in good condition.



*The combination farm building includes a cart shed at the far end, a barn and stable.*

## **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.

### **Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:**

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

#### **Site 1 on MAP 1**

**BRONMWYN (53133)**

**SN7167764381**

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

It is the intention to restore this building and to replace the roof with slate. This will be of great benefit to the building and will secure its future. Any works should endeavour to disturb as little of the historic fabric, including the fixtures and fittings, as possible. The slabbed floor should also be retained intact.

#### **Site 2 on MAP 1**

**BLAEN GORFFEN (51886)**

**SN7199062623**

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

Any opportunities to restore this building should be welcomed, it is one of the last remaining buildings of Blaen Gorffen farm which is still being used. The building requires a significant amount of work in rebuilding areas of collapsed masonry and lost roof slates.

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

*Sources consulted:*

Ordnance Survey 1888 Cardiganshire sheet XVI.15

Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire sheet XVI.15

Ordnance Survey 1889 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.03

Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.03

Ordnance Survey 1889 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.07

Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.07

Ordnance Survey 1889 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.08

Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.08

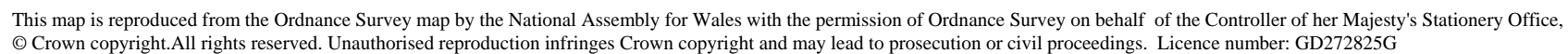
Ordnance Survey 1889 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.11

Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire sheet XXI.11

Tithe Map and Apportionment of Caron Parish 1842

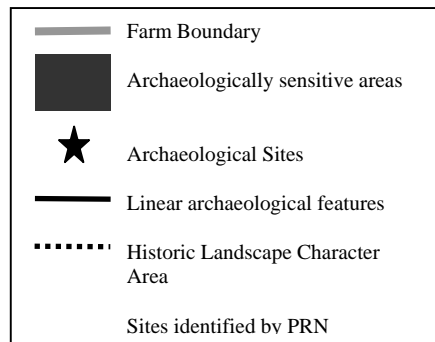
Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments and ICOMOS. 1998. *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales*

Murphy K 1999. *Upland Ceredigion Historic Landscape Characterisation*



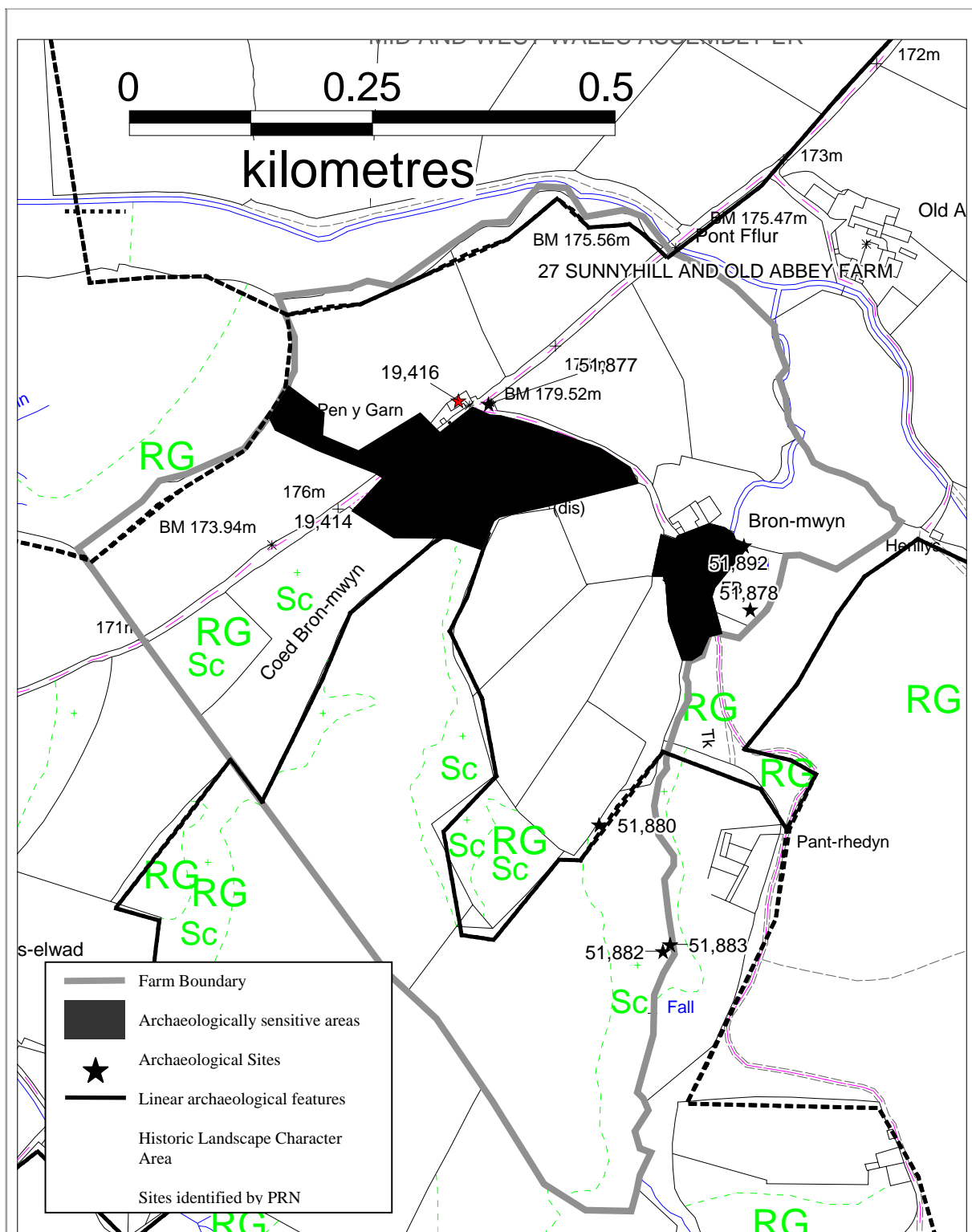
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# Blaengorffen

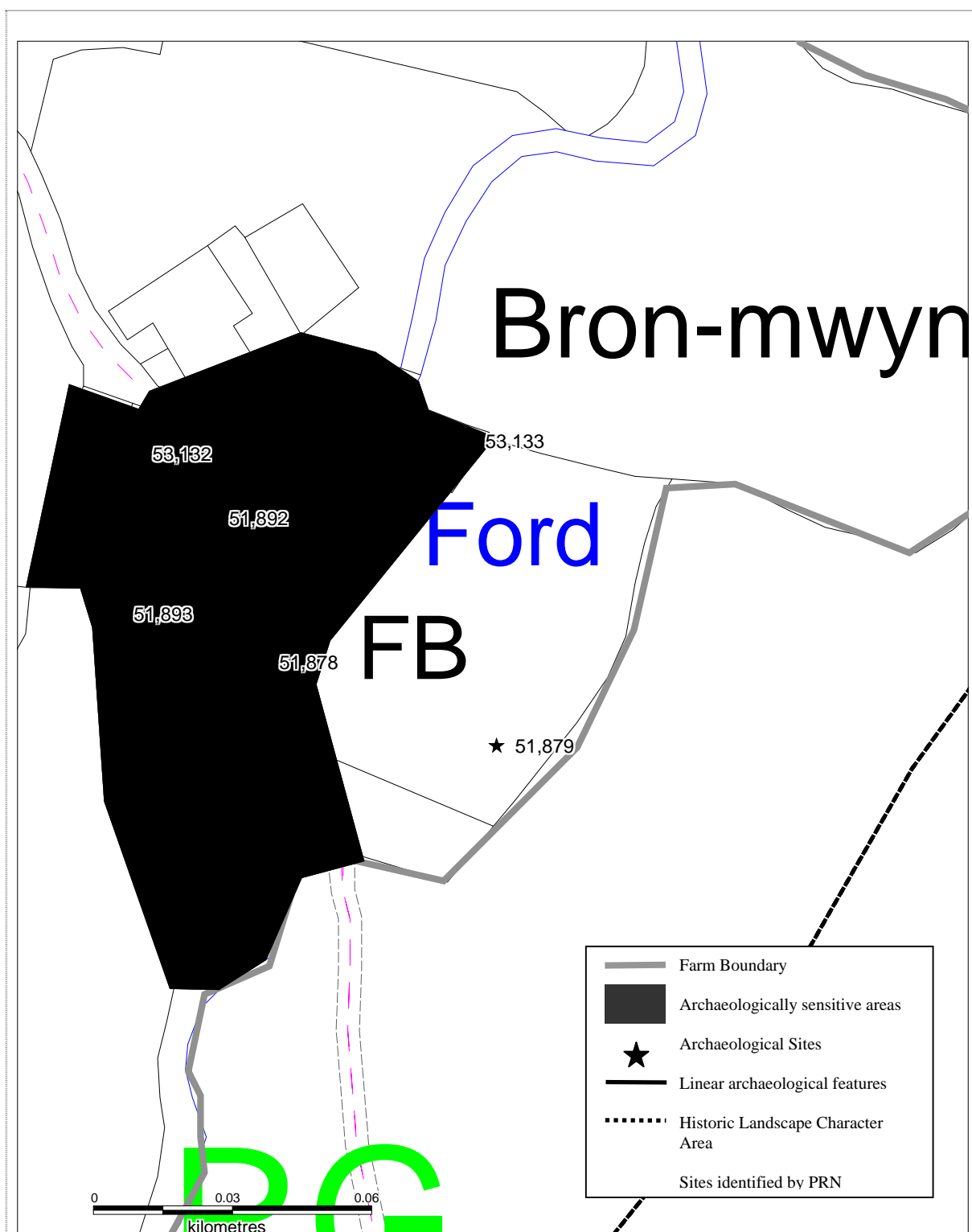


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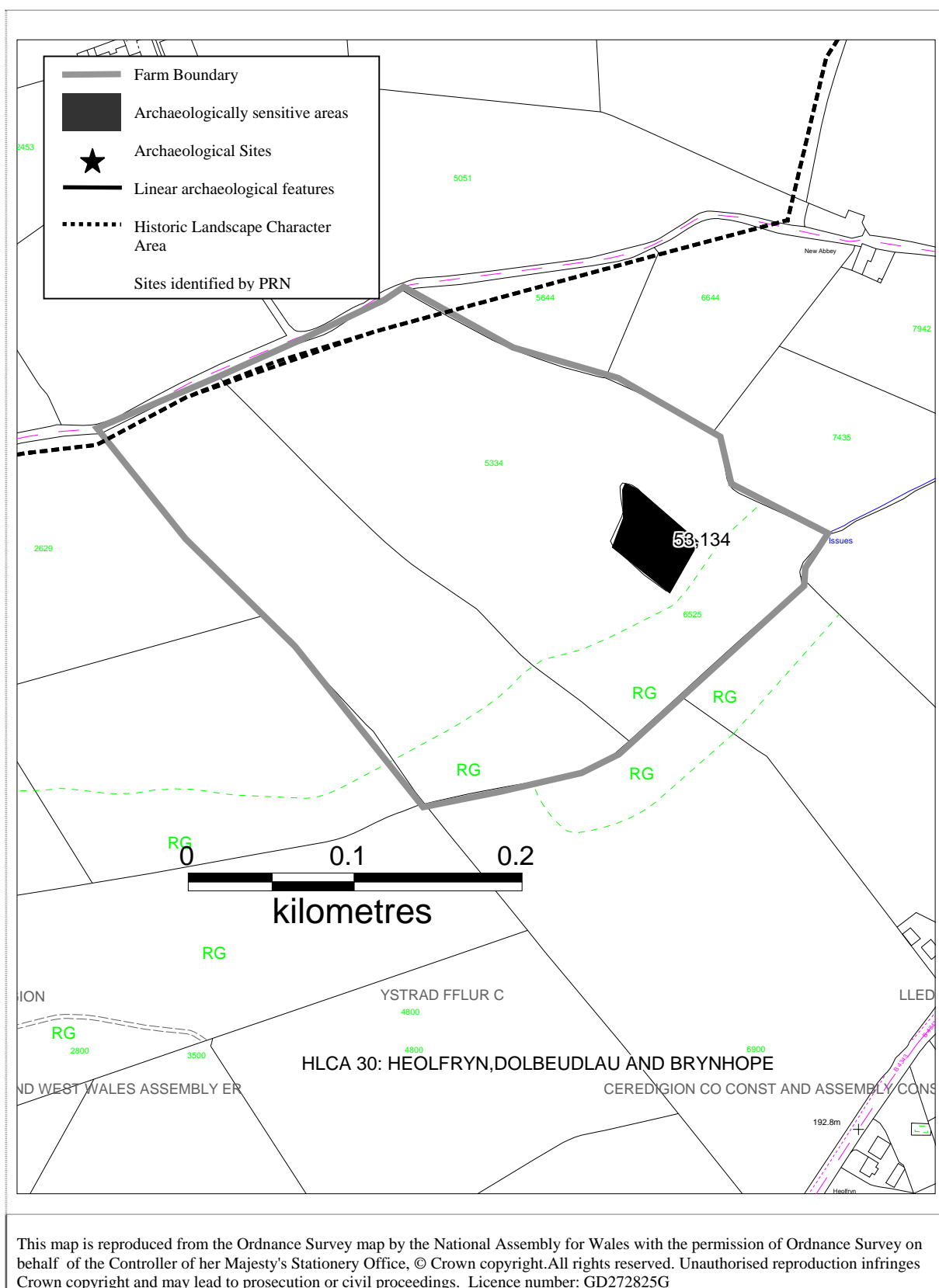




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## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 13 BRYNGWYN BACH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 757574

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 3916

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#### **Historic Background**

This extremely large historic landscape area crosses from Ceredigion into Carmarthenshire. It is entirely upland and included within it are parts of the Bishop of St David's Llanddewi Breifi estate and Strata Florida Abbey's Penardd Grange. It is likely that by the late Medieval Period both these holdings would have been divided into farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. The antiquity, however, of the upland farms contained within this area is uncertain, but it is likely that some originated in the Medieval Period, in the manner indicated above, while others may well have started as squatter settlements in the 18th- or early 19th-century. The 20th century has witnessed an abandonment of these farms, and only a handful are now occupied. The surviving chapel at Soar y Mynydd testifies to the once more populated nature of this area. The farms are clearly an important element in the landscape, but the vast majority of the land in this area is, and has been for a least the last few centuries, unenclosed, and would have been claimed by the Crown. Crossing the area are important trans-mountain natural route-ways linking the farming communities of Ceredigion with lands and towns to the east. These trans-mountain route-ways are celebrated for their use by drovers in the historical period, but they are likely to be of great antiquity, and not only provided communication across the Cambrian mountain chain, but allowed access onto the high moorland for the establishment of permanent or seasonal settlement, for the grazing of animals and for peat cutting.

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

This is a very large tract of unenclosed upland with an uneven and widely dispersed settlement pattern of upland farms. At the northern end unenclosed land runs down to as low as 200m, with heights of over 500m achieved in the central area. On average the height range is between 300 and 450m. The landscape is rarely craggy; wide stretches of undulating moor with blanket bog on higher levels and peaty hollows is the norm. There is abundant evidence of deserted settlements across this area, particularly along the route-ways. Occupied farms, of note is Nantymaen, are traditionally stone built, surrounded by a collection of modern farm buildings, and situated within a system of just a few fields. Older boundaries of these fields consist of earth banks, but wire fences now provide the stock-proof barriers. These fields now comprise improved pasture, and there are further blocks of unenclosed improved pasture close to the farms. Apart from a block of recent forestry, this is a treeless landscape.

The recorded archaeology of this area is rich and varied. Considerable time-depth to the landscape is provided by the numerous Bronze Age monuments that include single or groups of round barrows and cairns, standing stones and stone circle. No occupation sites of this date are known, but the density of these ritual and funerary monuments surely indicates a settled landscape. Castell Rhyfel is an Iron Age site towards the border of the area, and Gwys-yr-Ychen Bannog a defensive or administrative linear earthwork. Numerous abandoned cottage and other settlement sites indicate a greater level of population across this area up to the 19th century. Agricultural features and evidence of peat cutting testify to this former occupation.

This is a very well-defined area, to the east and west lie very extensive forestry plantations (areas 2, 3). The north and northwestern boundary is mainly composed of lower-lying enclosed and settled land (areas 27, 28, 29, 126).

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 27 SUNNYHILL AND OLD ABBEY FARM

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 692628

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 425.4

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period, the largest part of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). There is a tradition that the original abbey site lay within this area at Yr Hen Fynachlog Farm (Radford 1971); substantial foundations were uncovered here in the 19th century (Williams 1889). As with most of Strata Florida's other granges it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Pennardd was probably divided into many farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. Therefore the settlement pattern of this area may be quite ancient. At the dissolution, Strata Florida's lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, with the demesne land acquired by John Stedman. In 1630, the Vaughan family of Crosswood purchased much of the former grange land. In 1746, Stedman lands passed into the Nanteos estate. Sunnyhill in the 18th century was the residence of the Powell family of Nanteos for several decades (Rees 1936, 61), and a former garden here is included on the Welsh Historic Gardens Database for Cardiganshire (RCAHMW, Welsh Historic Gardens Database). The layout of the garden is shown on a 1819 estate map. A water mill was recorded at Maes-llyn in 1682 (Rees 1936, 60). Historic map evidence (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1845; NLW Crosswood Vol, 1 8, 12, 14, 16, 20; NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 3; NLW Vol 45, 54; NLW Vol 36, 147) of the late 18th- and early 19th-century demonstrate that the modern landscape of this landscape area had by then already been established. The settlement pattern, field systems and woodland areas have hardly changed since the compilation of these maps.

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

This area comprises a strip of flat ground on the east side of Cors Caron and the lower, northwest-facing valley sides. It lies between 165m and 200m. Agricultural land is now mostly improved pasture, though there are patches of rougher grazing and rushy ground in hollows close to Cors Caron. The overall characteristic is of small, irregular fields and dispersed farms with deciduous woodland on the steeper valley sides. Boundaries consist of earth banks with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition and are stock-proof, though in the southern part of the area and on the higher slopes they are becoming derelict and have been replaced with wire fences. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Older traditional buildings are stone built with slate roofs. Modern buildings are rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile. Most farms are surrounded by a suite of modern farm buildings. Included in this area is the listed 19th century farmhouse of Maes-llyn. This area is within a route corridor. A disused railway runs through the area from south to north. The present B4363 follows the eastern side of Cors Caron linking the medieval settlements and fairs of Pontryhdfendigaid, Ffair Rhos, Ystbyty Ystwyth and Machynlleth to the north with those of Tregaron, Llanddewi Breifi and Lampeter to the south.

Recorded archaeology mostly comprises sites of post-Medieval date and includes a chapel and Sunday school as well as several dwellings and two minor metal mines. The possible former site of Strata Florida Abbey is included on the record as well as a documentary source to a Medieval settlement at Treflyn.

Boundaries of this area are well defined. Cors Caron (area 1) lies to the west and the larger enclosures on higher ground of area 28 to the east, with unenclosed land (area 13) in the northeast corner. Regular enclosures of area 28 lie to the north. Only on the southern boundary at the junction of area 25 is there uncertainty where the exact boundary should be drawn.



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 28 BWLCHDDWYALLT AND BLAENGORFFEN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 704621

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 621.8

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period, most of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). Towards the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, the grange would have been divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis (Rees 1936, 58). On the dissolution most of the abbey lands were granted to the Earl of Essex and were subsequently purchased, in 1630, by the Crosswood estate. Demesne land was acquired by John Stedman, which in 1746 passed to the Nanteos estate. The pattern of dispersed farms is therefore likely to date to at least the end of the Medieval Period, and was maintained by later estate owners. It was certainly established by the mid 19th-century - dispersed farms surrounded by small irregular enclosures set amongst large enclosures are shown on the 1845 tithe map (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment). Early estate maps demonstrate that the process of enclosure was still underway in the early 19th-century. For instance the ridge to the southeast of Sunnyhill (NLW Vol 45, 54, 66, 68) is shown as unenclosed sleep-walk with a scatter of small, isolated fields in different ownership - possible squatter settlements? - and Bwlchddwyallt farm (NLW Crosswood 332; NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 14) is shown as an isolated farm surrounded by five small fields set in unenclosed land.

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

A southwest to northeast aligned ridge rising from 200m on the northwest-facing slopes to a maximum of 346m. Slopes are generally steep. Virtually the whole of the agricultural land of the area including the ridge summits is improved pasture, though strips of rough grazing lie on steep slopes and rushy ground in some hollows. Stands of deciduous woodland exist on some of the steep slopes and as clumps scattered across the area. This combination of scattered woodland and improved pasture lends an (misleading) impression of unenclosed 18th century park-land. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms; these sit in a field system of large, irregularly-shaped enclosures, with smaller fields surrounding the farmsteads. Old boundaries are of earth banks topped by hedges, but these are now generally redundant. Hedges are now stock-proof only on lower levels; elsewhere they are either derelict or non-existent and have been replaced by wire fences. New wire fences also demarcate some new large enclosures.

There is little recorded archaeology in this area. However, a major site, Castell Tregaron, an Iron Age hillfort is present, and further time-depth to the landscape is provided by finds of Bronze Age date.

Boundaries of this area are well defined. To the east lies unenclosed land (area 13) and to the south, west and north are lower lying areas characterised by small, irregular enclosures (areas 27, 29, 111).

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 30 HEOLFRYN, DOLBEUDLAU AND BRYNHOPE

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 723660

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 325.8

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period, this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). On the dissolution abbey lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, and subsequently in 1630 most were purchased by the Crosswood estate. The historical processes behind the development of the field system in this area are well documented. It would seem that down to the 18th century much of the land in this area was open, as two late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 6, 8) show it as a mixture of open land and very large enclosures, with small closes or paddocks around the farmsteads of Dolbeudiau, Brynhope and Dolyrychain. By the tithe survey of 1845 (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment) the regular field system that is present today had been established. The origin of the settlement pattern of dispersed farms is more problematic. It may well have originated in the late Medieval Period when Pennardd Grange, in common with other granges of Strata Florida, was divided into farms and leased out on a commercial basis.

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

A block of gently undulating ground including low craggy ridges ranging in height from 170m to 220m located to the south and west of Pontrhydfendigiad. Much of the higher ground is improved pasture, but there are considerable tracts of rough pasture and rushy ground at lower levels. Peat deposits are present in some hollows. The field system here is one of regular, small- to medium-sized fields. Boundaries are straight and consist of low earth banks topped with wire fences. Some hedges are present on the banks, but mostly in a derelict condition except in the northern part of the area and close to farmsteads where they are generally still stock-proof. Boundaries on low lying ground in hollows consist of drainage ditches. Traditional buildings are of stone with slate roofs, modern structures are of rendered concrete block and concrete tiles.

As well as including a Sunday school, post-Medieval dwellings and two minor metal mines, the recorded archaeology provides a time-depth element to the landscape in the form of an Iron Age hillfort, and a rectangular earthwork enclosure which may be of Roman date.

Apart from where the area joins the village of Pontrhydfendigiad, the borders are not particularly well-defined, merging on all sides with the irregular field systems of area 27, 37, 118 and 105.

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 126 TAI-UNNOS

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 735634

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 36.1

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#### **Historic Background**

In the Medieval Period this area lay with Strata Florida Abbey's Penardd Grange. As with other granges of the abbey it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Penardd had been divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. On the dissolution of the abbey its lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, who subsequently, in 1630, sold them to the Crosswood estate. However, it is likely that this area was unenclosed and therefore claimed by the Crown. The first settlements seem to have been squatter or tai-unnos cottages carved out of Rhos Gelli-gron common, perhaps in the late 18th-century. There is no documentation for this, though the tithe map of 1845 (Caron parish) shows a well-developed settlement of cottages sitting in a system of small irregular fields. A Sunday school/chapel was built in 1886 to serve the community, and a second one in 1906 (Percival 1998, 520). Oral testimony indicates that the inhabitants worked in the metal mines to the north of Strata Florida. The decline in the mining industry was accompanied by a decline in this settlement; population fell from the early decades of the 20th century, though it was not until after World War Two that the final inhabited dwelling was abandoned.

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

This derelict landscape of late 18th- and 19th-century cottages and houses lies on the fringe of Rhos Gelli-gron common at between 250m and 320m. Abandoned cottages and houses are dotted across the landscape. These vary from very ruinous, small dwellings to more recently abandoned and more intact substantial stone-built houses. A redundant and a demolished chapel are present. Field patterning comprises small irregular enclosures and paddocks. These are divided by earth banks originally topped with hedges. Hedges, however, are either now gone or derelict, and the landscape is essentially one large unit of rough grazing fenced off from surrounding land.

Recorded archaeology consists entirely of deserted settlements as described above.

This is a distinct and well-defined area. To the south and west is unenclosed moorland (area 13). Forestry lies to the east (area 3), and enclosed settled land (areas 27, 37) to the north.