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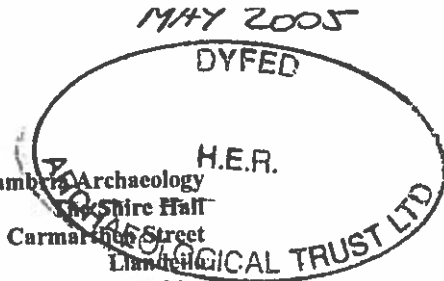
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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



**Prepared for:
Ffwrnes Blwm**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/4289**

**ACA Report No. 2005/ 63
Project Record No. 49916**

**Prepared by
Helen Milne**

Other documents enclosed:

**Kenneth Murphy & Neil Ludlow, 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape
Characterisation. Historic Landscape Character Areas 63 Waun Wyddyl, 64
Banc Troedrhiwseiri & 75 Bont Goch. R. Protheroe Jones: Cambrian Mountains
Metal Mines Project (1992-3) Field notes and drawings 56 Mynydd Gorddu.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

This farm holding is situated in an upland area to the west of Bont Goch and the Afon Leri. It lies within the Upland Ceredigion Area of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW(D)2), which is further subdivided into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs). These are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape. The holding spans parts of three HLCAs: the northwest corner lies within HLCA 63 (Waun Wyddyl), the central section lies within HLCA 75 (Bont Goch), whilst the southern part lies within HLCA 64 (Banc Troedrhiwseiri).

The overall enclosure pattern within the farm holding is now characterised by medium to large fields, many of which have very regular boundaries. Historic map sources demonstrate that enclosure was formerly confined to the lower slopes, below the level of Mynydd Gorddu farm itself. This field pattern changed little between 1847 when the tithe map was made, and the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1887), although the development of Mynydd Gorddu mine during this period, influenced the positioning of some later boundaries. Since the early twentieth century, formerly open mountain land in the northern part of the holding has been divided by modern field boundaries. There is a strong sense of an earlier, underlying agricultural landscape in the area. Mynydd Gorddu farmstead is located on the former boundary between lower lying enclosed land to the south and higher, open mountain pasture to the north. This boundary is delimited by a linear ditch and bank, which can still be seen running past the back of the present farmhouse, and continuing westwards. Further to the west the same boundary incorporates a circular fold (PRN 30,687), presumably for holding stock collected off the mountain. The name of the farm implies an association with upland dairying. The 'Gorddu' element appears to be derived from 'corddi', which means 'to churn'. The historic settlement pattern in the area is one of dispersed farmsteads and smaller cottage sites, but there has been some abandonment within the holding. An estate map of 1778 marks two buildings at the south-western end of the holding (PRN 30685), but by the time the tithe map was made, this settlement no longer features. Another cottage, which is marked on the tithe map, had disappeared by 1887.

Archaeological and historical content

The present layout of Mynydd Gorddu farm (PRN 30,690) was established during the second half of the 19th century but an earlier, smaller farmstead (PRN 30,689), is shown on the 1847 tithe map and an estate map of 1778. A concentration of Bronze Age features in this holding indicates Prehistoric activity in the area. Several standing stones (PRNs 5403, 9720, 12026 & 12033) and round barrows (PRNs 5400, 12027 & 12034) have been recorded, although some of those recorded have disappeared, and some may be more recent, or natural features. However, potential exists for the discovery of further prehistoric archaeology within the holding, during the farm visit a gatepost was noted, which may be a re-used standing stone (PRN53, 097). A burnt

mound (PRN 12874) has also been recorded on a stream bank. There is significant potential for well preserved archaeological evidence buried within peat deposits (PRN 52865) in the south-eastern part of the holding. Lead mining is an important feature of the historic landscape in this area. Most of the visible remains date from the later Post Medieval period, and some are still marked on current Ordnance Survey maps. However, in this general area lead mining activity is known during the Medieval period, and may even date back to Prehistory. Definitive evidence of early mining has not been found within this holding, and the identified remains are comparatively late in date. In the southwest corner mine workings (PRN 25846) began in 1873, though only worked intermittently until 1882. Mynydd Gorddu mine (PRN 9134) began operation in 1874, and ceased to operate in 1884. Associated with these mine workings are various water management systems, some of which may date from the 18th century.

Key objective

The management priority for this farm is the sympathetic maintenance of the traditional outbuildings at Mynydd Gorddu farmstead. The preservation of remaining elements of the lead mining complex should also be given high priority.

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	BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU; MYNYDD GORDDU MINE (9134)	Post Med lead mine; zinc mine	SN668861	B		Specific

The site of Mynydd Gorddu lead and zinc mine. A comparatively late development in the Ceredigion ore-field, following the chance discovery of a rich vein at the surface by some local miners in 1870. Works began with considerable optimism in 1874 but the early promise soon proved unfounded and the company, overwhelmed with debts, finally ceased operations in 1884. Both first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps show details of the complex, which is confined to the eastern side of a straight north-south boundary. This boundary now defines the western edge of the upstanding remains. Surface traces of some buildings and features within the area marked on the attached map have disappeared, although there may be surviving sub-surface remains in these areas. The visible remains of the Mynydd gorddu complex form an important component of the historic landscape, comprising wheel pits, buildings, spoil heaps and shafts, on a south-facing slope. (The numbers in brackets in the following text refer to the map created by R. Protheroe Jones during the Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project – see APPENDIX I)

Documentary evidence records that a 40ft pumping wheel was built under Captain Richard Rowse in 1875. A second 45ft pumping wheel was built in 1881. These wheels would have provided power for the extraction and processing of the ore, and were linked to various mechanical elements of the complex via a series of rods. Both wheelpits are stone-built

The southern pumping wheelpit [23] is the larger (and therefore later) of the two, and is partially filled by cascading tip waste. It is covered by the western end of a modern shelter shed, which prevents visibility of this element of the complex, but has afforded protection to the stone remains.



Looking south across Mynydd Gorddu mine showing damaged northern wheelpit, with modern shelter sheds in the background.

The northern wheel pit [15] has been damaged by the modern continuation of a trackway shown on historic maps. The pit has been partially infilled with stone rubble, and there is no trace of the crusher house marked to the west on historic maps. Further west the second edition Ordnance Survey map records six buddle pits [18] (for separating the ore from the gangue) arranged in two rows of three. The first edition Ordnance Survey map shows that this area was covered when the mine was in operation. There are currently no surface traces of the pits, but the ground is uneven, with some stone rubble suggesting potential for surviving below-ground remains.

At the southern end of the mine complex, historic map sources show features that can be identified as slime or settling ponds [21] (used to extract the remaining ore from finely crushed material). Earthwork banks of these features are still extant.

On the eastern side of the complex, is a small single-storey rubble-stone building, which was the explosives shed for the mine complex. The main part is single-cell, and measures approx. 4m x 4m, with a south-facing entrance. Annexed to the east side of the building is a small lean-to, measuring approx. 2.3m x 2.3m with its own south-facing entrance. The land-owner referred to this building as 'Ty Powdr' ('powder house'), and it is marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map as 'magazine'. The walls of this building are substantial for its small size. Explosives sheds were designed in this way, with relatively flimsy roofs so that if an explosion occurred the blast was directed upwards rather than horizontally.



'Ty Powdr' the explosives shed for the Mynydd Gorddu complex, viewed from the south-east.

Further west, on the south side of the same track is a stone built structure [13], which the landowner believed to be a kiln due to the conical central arrangement of stones. The feature is more likely to be an ore bin or hopper, into which the mined ore was loaded to be fed down into the dressing process.



The ore bin/ hopper viewed from above.

To the north-west of the explosives shed is a single-storey stone building of unknown function measuring c

5m x 8m in length [12], with entrance and window opening facing south.

At the western edge of the complex is a building, which now houses a secure metal container [6]. It is single-storey, stone-built with two cells and is currently roofless. The walls are in various stages of deterioration. A straight joint is clearly visible in the front (southern) elevation, and the mortar on the eastern side of this joint is a distinctive dark grey (a colour probably derived from high mineral content). This suggests that two halves of the building were constructed at different times, and that the eastern part was constructed after the mine started to operate. The western portion of the building measures c. 8m in length x c. 4m from front to back, and has the remains of a chimney in the northern elevation. The eastern portion of the building has a chimney in the east gable-end, and measures 4m from front to back x c. 4m in length. The function of the building is not clear, but the incorporation of fireplaces suggests that it was used for occupation, and it may have been the mine office.



Two views of the building which may have been the mine office, and now houses a metal container.

The historic integrity of the mine complex has been denuded. During development of the wind farm on Mynydd Gorddu, several trackways were created, and machinery was stored in the area surrounding the visible elements of the mine. Machines tracking across the area have caused the surface to become rutted, and damage may have been done to sub-surface remains. Modern agricultural sheds have also been built on the site, one of which covers the southern wheelpit. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

3

[\(53097\)](#)

Bronze Age?
standing stone?

SN6696186015 B

Specific

Large upright stone slab now used as gatepost for field boundary. The slab stands to a height of c. 1.6m, and is c.0.7m wide. The size and form suggest that it may have been created as a standing stone, but has been re-used as a gatepost. It is unclear whether the stone occupies its original location, but it may have been moved to the end of the field boundary to be used as a gatepost. Poaching around the base of the slab has lowered the ground level, and may be threatening the stability of the stone. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*



Two views of stone 53,097, showing poaching around the base.

4

**LLETY MARCH
MELIN;LLETY'R
MARCH** [\(30688\)](#)

**Post Med?
cottage?**

SN67278585 B

Specific

The site of a settlement marked on the 1778 estate plan known as 'Lletty March Melin'. Also indicated on the 1847 tithe map as 'Lletty'r March'. The settlement is no longer marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887, suggesting it had been abandoned by this time. Although the site lies close to a stream, the 'melin' element is believed to have been a corruption of 'melyn' rather than an indication of a mill in the vicinity (so that the name translates as 'yellow stallion lodge'). The abandonment of the cottage coincided with the construction of the reservoir (PRN 30,694). The site of this cottage is now visible as a series of low earthworks in rough ground. No immediate threats to the condition of this site were identified, and it appears to have survived due to its location on unimproved, rushy ground close to the reservoir. However there were several small thorn bushes dotted around the remains. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*



The site of Lletty March Melin

BANC TROED-RHIW- SEIRI;BWLCH TROED- RHIW-SEIRI [\(5400\)](#) **Bronze Age ring barrow** **SN66778560 B**

Generic

A Bronze Age ring barrow, partly excavated by C. H. Boulder in 1956, producing burials, cremations, flint artefacts and pottery indicating a long period of use and reuse. Very prominent on the skyline when viewed from the north. The area around the barrow is also of archaeological significance as it is probable that the former sites of hitherto undiscovered barrows and burials might exist within the immediate area. Seen from a distance during the archaeological farm visit. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

BANC TROED RHIW SEIRI [\(5403\)](#) **Bronze Age standing stone** **SN66138568 U**

Generic

Site of a bronze age standing stone. The stone has been removed and is now used as a war memorial at Penrhyncoch. The area is still of archaeological significance however, the stone may only be one element of a burial and ritual complex. Removed *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

TIRYMYNACH [\(9138\)](#) **Post Med leat** **SN6685 C**

Generic

Leat nearly parallel to leat PRN 30696. A section examined during topsoil stripping for Bontgoch pipeline revealed that the leat had been constructed by digging a ditch and using the spoil to create a bank on the downhill side to aid water retention. Leat ran to Penycefn/Court Grange workings from a small stream. Certainly constructed by 1847, but probably not before 1778, as it does not appear on the estate plan of 1778. The leat is still a clearly visible, and historically important landscape feature, but may not be as prominent as it once was. The land-owner reported that some infilling of the channels had been necessary, as animals had become trapped on their backs in the leats.



Leats 9,138, and 30,696 viewed from the north

TIRYMYNACH ([9139](#)) Post Med leat SN67528596 C Generic

Leat running east from reservoir PRN 30694 possibly connected with PRN 30,696. Constructed between 1778 and 1847. Supplied with water from Afon Leri c2 miles to the east and augmented the water supply to Penycefn/Court Grange mine via various leats and streams. Following the construction of the dam, after 1847, it would have provided water to the reservoir.

TY'R-BANC ([9720](#)) Bronze Age SN675857 U Generic
standing stone

Site of Bronze Age standing stone. Not seen during archaeological farm visit.

**BANC MYNYDD-
GORDDU;
FFYNNONWARED**
([12026](#)) Bronze Age? SN67208670 U Generic
standing stone?

During a watching brief in 1994 Dyfed Archaeological Trust described this feature as a possible bronze age standing stone, but the stone was not located during the archaeological farm visit. There are a large number of naturally occurring boulders in this area, making identification difficult. Another standing stone (PRN 12,033), located during the 1994 watching brief, was visited later the same year and not found, suggesting that the stone had been moved. During the course of the creation of the Bont Goch storage reservoir, and the more recent wind farm development, there has been considerable potential for boulders and stones, whether natural or archaeologically significant, to have been moved from their original locations.

**BANC MYNYDD-
GORDDU;FFYNNONWARED** Bronze Age? SN67108653 B Generic
round barrow?
([12027](#))

A possible Bronze Age ritual cairn, visible for miles. Consists of a circular earthwork with saucer depression, very large limestone erratic in centre, smaller limestone blocks around it. 4.0m in diameter, 0.2m high. During the archaeological farm visit the land-owner stated that the feature had been created in the 1970s when stones were cleared into this location.

**BANC MYNYDD-
GORDDU** ([12032](#)) Unknown SN67008666 U Generic
clearance cairn

A large clearance cairn of limestone and quartzite erratics. 7m x 15m x 1.2m high. To the east is a short length of earth bank, 0.75m high, which may be related. During the archaeological farm visit the farmer stated that the cairn had been formed by recent clearance during the 1970s. Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)

BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU (12033) **Bronze Age? standing stone** **SN66968667 U** **Generic**

A possible Bronze Age standing stone identified in 1994. Consisted of a limestone erratic 1.75m high, possibly natural. When visited again in the same year the stone was not seen, possibly removed by work on new service reservoir. The stone was not located during the archaeological farm visit. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU (12034) **Bronze Age? round barrow?** **SN66868662 U** **Generic**

A small circular earthwork consisting of a shale/gravel mound, 2m in diameter x 0.1m high. Possibly representing a grassed over clearance cairn. On site of new service reservoir. Not located during archaeological farm visit, destroyed?. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

MYNYDD-GORDDU (12874) **Bronze Age burnt mound** **SN66528591 B** **Generic**

A semicircular burnt mound, 12m long x 7m wide x 0.4m high. Burnt stone and charcoal visible where stream has eroded side of mound. These sites can date from the Bronze Age (c2000 - 500BC) to the post medieval period. However, these sites are generally thought to date from the Bronze Age and may have been used as cooking sites or saunas. Burnt mounds are usually identified on the ground as grass covered horseshoe shaped mounds. These mounds consist of heat shattered stone and charcoal. Where sites have been excavated they often have adjacent wooden water tanks. Burnt mounds are located in wet areas where the tanks can fill with water unaided. Stone was heated in a fire and thrown into the tank of water. The heated water was used for cooking or bathing. In order to reuse the tank the stone was removed resulting in the mound. In some cases these mounds are very large indicating long-term use of the site. Not seen during Archaeological Farm Visit.

PENYCEFN MINE EAST (25846) **Post Med lead mine** **SN662857 B** **Generic**

The site of metal mining workings, begun in 1873 and worked intermittently until 1882. The works were associated with a late reopening of nearby Penycefn/ Court Grange mine to the southeast. The worked lode soon became disordered and coupled with poor results at the main mine the venture soon fell into trouble. After two closures and subsequent revivals the workings finally ceased in 1882. A spoil heap and the remains of two disused shafts survive. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

Y PARC (26575) **Unknown;Post Med? platform** **SN67658637 U** **Generic**

Possible hut platform, sub-circular, c.5.0m in diameter, recorded in 1994. Not seen during the archaeological farm visit.

BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU (26577) **Post Med platform** **SN66478595 B** **Generic**

A rectangular platform approx 8m x 16m (long axis E-W). It appears to have its south, west and east sides defined by the positioning of boulders (some of which are very large). Features are ephemeral. The site is positioned at the bottom of a valley next to a stream. The presence of the many clumps of reed growth and dead grass prevents full description of this site.

UNKNOWN (30685) **Medieval?;Post Med? deserted rural settlement** **SN66148568 U** **Generic**

Two buildings shown on 1778 estate map but not shown on the 1847 tithe map. May be a settlement site, or buildings associated with nearby metal mines. At the given grid reference there do not appear to be any earthworks resembling building platforms or buildings. There is a series of linear parched areas, slightly raised which may represent ridge and furrow or former boundary banks. Nothing was visible in this area at the time of the archaeological farm visit. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

(30686) **Post Med pound** **SN66488562 C** **Generic**

The former site of pound indicated on the 1778 estate plan.

[\(30687\)](#)

Post Med sheep
fold

SN66768626 B

Generic

A sheepfold shown on tithe map of 1847 and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. The land-owner stated that there were no above ground remains of this site.

MYNYDD GORDDU

[\(30689\)](#)

Medieval?;Post
Med farmstead

SN67298614 B

Generic

An earlier farmstead, which appears to have been entirely replaced by the present range of buildings at Mynydd Gorddu between 1847 and 1886. The tithe map of 1847 shows a different layout from that shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey of 1886. The existing record states that the present farmstead of Mynydd Gorddu (PRN 30,690) is c.50m to the east of the buildings shown on the tithe (the earlier farmstead). This is incorrect as the present farmhouse lies a short distance to the west of the location of the former farmhouse, whilst the present range of traditional buildings lie a short distance to the east. The landowner stated that the previous farmhouse occupied an area which now accommodates a modern agricultural shed (to the east of the present farmhouse). The earlier farmstead comprised two buildings (shown on the tithe map). The western building appears to be the farmhouse, whilst close by, to the east is a linear building orientated north-south, which probably represents a range of outbuildings. The farmstead also appears on the Court Grange Estate Plan of 1778. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas, and Mynydd Gorddu has seen continued occupation over a long period of time. However, the topography of the entire steading area has been modified, and new agricultural sheds have been built, making it quite unlikely that substantial below-ground remains of the earlier farmstead survive. It is however possible, that material from this earlier range was incorporated within the present range of buildings (PRN 30,690), and this is strongly suggested by the presence of stone slates which were used to roof the north pitch of the southern building in the present range. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

[\(30694\)](#)

Post Med reservoir SN673859 B

Generic

A reservoir associated with metal mining activities, situated above leats to Penycefn/ Court Grange and Mynydd Gorddu Mines. It is supplied with water from Afon Leri c. 2miles away via a leat. The reservoir is likely to have been constructed between 1849 and 1851, as part of a major capital investment programme in local mines. It is also possible that it was constructed between 1873 and 1882 when Penycefn/ Court Grange was re-opened, as well as Mynydd Gorddu opening in 1874. The reservoir does not feature on the tithe map of 1847, although the leats to the west are shown.



Reservoir 30,694 looking south

The first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps show the reservoir and dam with sluice, with a water level which is lower than the present level, surrounded by marshy ground. The dam now carries the access track to Mynydd Gorddu farm, and the water level has risen due to recent drainage works carried out by the landowner on surrounding land. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

[\(30695\)](#)

Post Med leat

SN67258594 C

Generic

Leat from reservoir (PRN 30,694) to Mynydd Gorddu Mine (PRN 9,134). Constructed between 1874 and 1884. Not seen during archaeological farm visit.

[\(30696\)](#)

Post Med leat

SN67258594 C

Generic

Leat from reservoir PRN 30694 to PRN 25846. Originally recorded as continuation of leat PRN 9139 but this cannot be shown conclusively due to the positioning of reservoir PRN 30694. The leat is still a clearly visible, and historically important landscape feature, but may not be as prominent as it once was. The land-owner reported that some infilling of the channels had been necessary, as animals had become trapped on their backs in the leats. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

[\(30697\)](#)

Post Med leat

SN66768589 C

Generic

Leat running to Penycfn/ Court Grange Mine (PRN 9135). Historic map evidence suggests that it was constructed between 1778 and 1847. The leat is still a clearly visible, and historically important landscape feature, but may not be as prominent as it once was. The land-owner reported that some infilling of the channels had been necessary, as animals had become trapped on their backs in the leats. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

[\(30698\)](#)

Post Med quarry

SN67248586 C

Generic

A small quarry excavated between 1847 and 1887, probably supplying rock for the construction of the dam at the west end of the reservoir (PRN 30694). *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

[\(52865\)](#)

Post Med peat
extraction site

SN6761985958

Generic

Former peat cutting area, or turbary, indicated on a late 18th century estate map. Of historic interest providing evidence of the scale of peat extraction in the locality, but also of environmental archaeological importance. Potentially well-preserved stratified deposits within any surviving depths of peat. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

MYNYDD-GORDDU

Post Med ty bach

SN6720786164

Generic

[\(53098\)](#)

Small single storey stone building, built into south facing slope. Entrance on south elevation, offset to west side. Some stone has been dislodged from the walls, and the roof has collapsed. The building has corrugated tin laid over it, which are held down with stone from the walls. The landowner stated that this was a double-seated Ty Bach. The building is now used for storage. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*



The 'ty bach' (53,098)

MYNYDD-GORDDU

Post Med?
boundary

SN6704986232

Generic

[\(53099\)](#)

Prominent boundary bank which formerly divided open mountain land from enclosed land lower in the valley. The full extent of this feature is unknown, but it may run around the entire mountain. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*



Mynydd Gorrddu boundary bank (53,099)

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

**BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU; MYNYDD
GORDDU MINE [\(9134\)](#)**

SN668861

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

It is important that the entire area marked on the attached map is treated with care in order to preserve any surviving below-ground archaeological remains.

The landowner expressed interest in restoring the Powder House. This feature appears to survive largely intact apart from the roof. No original roof material survives, but there is a suggestion that it may have been made of corrugated iron. In this instance corrugated iron would be an appropriate replacement. Scrub clearance is required to remove thorn trees which threaten the structure. Consideration of an appropriate roof structure would be necessary prior to any rebuilding work commencing.

The landowner also suggested restoration of the hopper. The original form of this feature is unclear, and attempts to restore it would rely heavily on speculation as to the likely appearance of the original. However, the hopper would benefit from removal of grass and weeds growing between the stone-work, and also some consolidation of the existing structure through re-pointing using an appropriate lime-based mortar.

Funding may be better directed towards restoring the building which currently houses the metal container used as a lock-up. Re-building to incorporate one secure room, would remove the need for the metal container.

Cambria Archaeology should be contacted if restoration work is to go ahead on any of the mining remains, in order to arrange for provision of specialist advice on specific features.

Site 3 on MAP 1

[\(53097\)](#)

SN6696186015

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

The ground should be made up in the vicinity of the stone to increase stability and prevent future collapse.

Site 4 on MAP 1

**LLETY MARCH MELIN; LLETTY'R
MARCH [\(30688\)](#)**

SN67278585

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

The area around the remains of this cottage site may require scrub clearance in the future.

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
2	MYNYDD-GORDDU (30690)	Post Med farmstead	SN67358616	B	Specific

Mynydd Gorddu farmstead lies on a south-facing slope. It comprises a farmhouse, and a range of traditional outbuildings which form three sides of a fold-yard. The traditional outbuildings are c. 70m to the east of the present farmhouse, and the area in between has been filled with modern agricultural sheds. There is also a covered area within the fold-yard, and more modern shelter sheds adjoining the eastern side of the outbuildings. These additions mean that from many angles there is a restricted view of the traditional elements of the range. All buildings are currently utilised for sheltering livestock.

The present layout of Mynydd Gorddu farm appears on map sources from the late nineteenth century (1886) onwards. A smaller farmstead (PRN 30,689) is shown on the 1847 tithe map and an estate map of 1778. Between 1847 and 1887, the farmhouse moved to its present location, (c. 30m to the west of PRN 30,689), and the outbuildings were re-built to the east of the earlier farmstead. Comparison between various historic map sources suggests that both house and outbuildings were completely rebuilt between 1847 and 1887. It seems likely that building material from the earlier farmstead (PRN 30,689) was re-used in the present range of buildings, as demonstrated by the roof of the southern building in the range. The area marked on the tithe map as the location of the earlier farmstead is now occupied by a modern agricultural shed, and there are no above ground remains of the site.

The traditional outbuildings at Mynydd Gorddu form three sides (south, east, and north) of a fold-yard. The 'beudy' (cowshed) forms the south side, whilst the 'cartws' (carthouse) and 'stabal' (stable) form the east side, and finally the 'sgubor' (barn), and 'beudy ucha' (upper cowshed) form the north side. All are built of local rubble-stone, and were originally roofed with slate.



Mynydd Gorddu farm looking southwest, showing traditional buildings and modern shelter sheds.



Cowshed on south side of foldyard, showing ventilation slits and gable end of carthouse with mortar scarring.

On the south side of the fold-yard, the single-storey cowshed is c. 22m in length, by 6.5m wide. The northern elevation of this building is single storey height, whilst the southern side forms a retaining wall for the hillslope, and extends downwards, so that the height of this wall when viewed from the south is double the height of the northern elevation. This aspect is seen from the road and the approach to the farmstead, and the double height wall is a particularly striking visual element of the historic farmstead. Beneath the eaves on the southern elevation is a row of narrow, evenly spaced ventilation slits. There is no eastern gable end to the cowshed. It is arranged so that it meets at a right angle with the eastern portion of the range (the carthouse/ cartws) half way across the breadth of the cowshed's eastern end. The southern elevation of the cowshed formerly continued to the east, to form a 'lean to' element against the southern gable-end of the carthouse. This is evidenced by continuation of the lower portion of the southern retaining wall on the cowshed, and a mortar scar at the height of the cowshed roof apex, on the southern gable end of the carthouse.



West elevation of the carthouse

The carthouse forms the eastern side of the foldyard. It is two-storey and built of rubble-stone. The east elevation is almost entirely concealed by modern livestock shelters. The west elevation incorporates two brick arched entrance-ways, and a second storey hay-loft with an external entrance, which appears to have been accessed by ladder from the outside.

There have been some brick and breeze-block modifications to internal walls. The north side of the foldyard is formed by two further stone outbuildings. The eastern one, referred to as " 'sgubor" (barn) by the landowner, is in reasonable condition, and currently has a part slate and part fibre cement roof. The 'beudy ucha' (upper cowhouse), the western building on the north side of the range, is in a poor state of repair, with stone built walls surviving to perhaps half their original height. The remaining structure is roofless, but is currently protected by a modern shelter structure.



Inside the carthouse showing 'torching' which is a distinctive feature of the roofs at Mynydd Gorddu

There is evidence that all of the outbuilding roofs originally had torching (lime mortar infilling between the batons and rafters) under the slates, and it is a distinctive element of the roofs at Mynydd Gorddu. It survives in a deteriorated condition in many places where the original roof structure has remained intact. *Visited 10/03/2005 (HGM)*

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 2 on MAP 1

MYNYDD-GORDDU ([30690](#))

SN67358616

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

The landowner wishes carry out restoration on the traditional outbuildings at Mynydd Gorddu. The main body of the work will focus on repairing and replacing roof elements that are unstable.

Buildings on the north and south sides of the foldyard currently have corrugated fibre-cement on the northern pitches of their roofs. The roof on the south building forms a particularly prominent visual element of the historic landscape. It is therefore intended that slates will be utilised from the northern building, to replace the fibre cement element of the roof on the southern building in the range.

The northern barn in the range will therefore be left with no slates, and one pitch consisting of corrugated fibre-cement. If possible both pitches on this building should be re-roofed using historically appropriate material. Re-slatting would be unrealistically expensive, and in this instance corrugated tin should be considered, as it provides a cheaper option, which will secure the future of the building.

Original, undamaged historic fabric should be retained wherever possible. Where replacement is necessary, this should be in the same style as the original, and replicate original materials as closely as possible.

Torching (the use of lime to infill spaces between batons and rafters) is a distinctive element of the underside of the roofs at Mynydd Gorddu, and ideally where slate roofs are to be repaired or replaced, torching should be re-instated, as this will help retain the distinctive historic character of the buildings.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

*HM - 19/05/2005 (12:41:01) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology Project record number 49916.
Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.
tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email cambria@cambria.org.uk, website www.cambria.org.uk*

This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.

Sources consulted:

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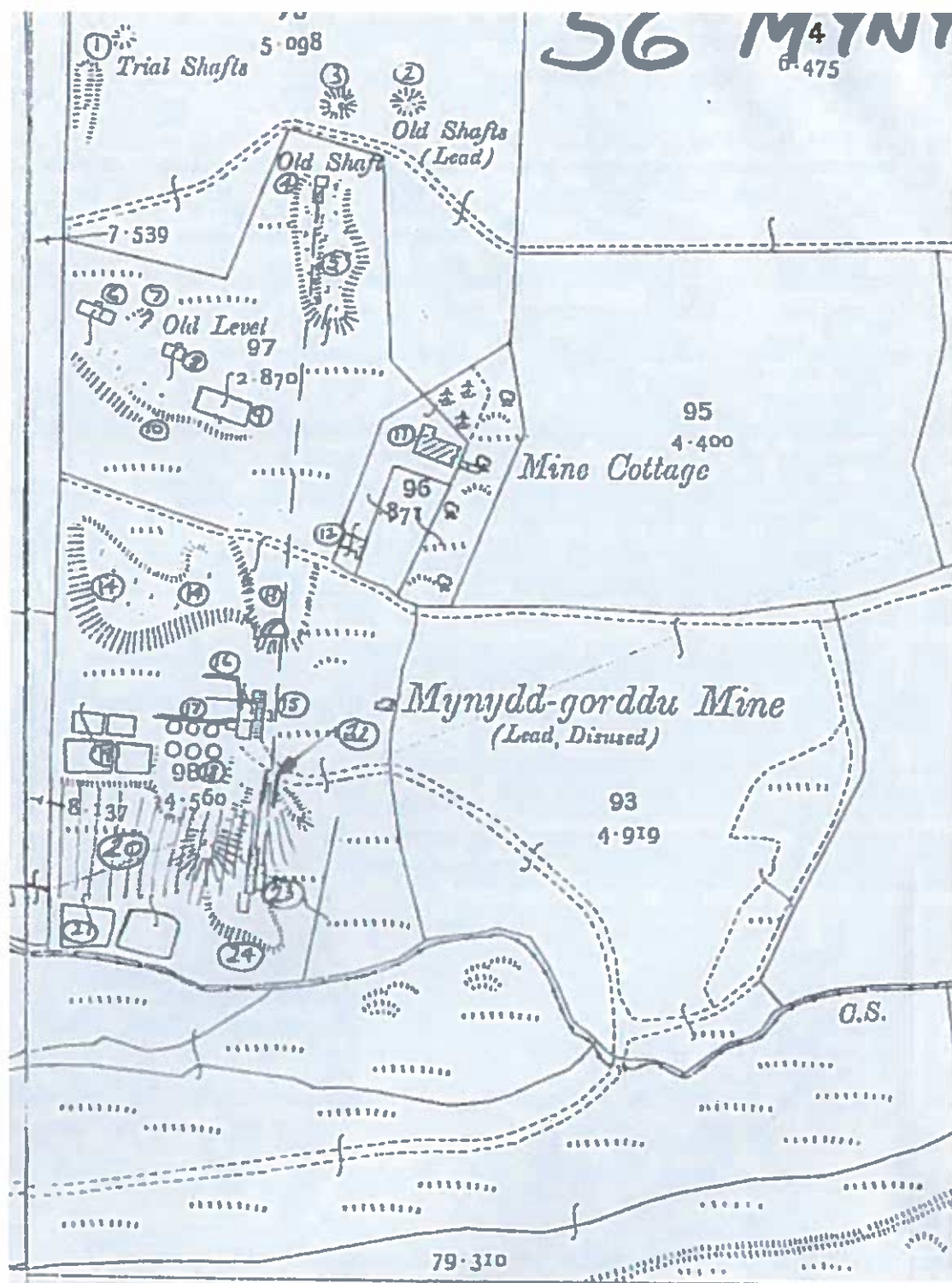
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Kenneth Murphy & Neil Ludlow, 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape Characterisation. Historic Landscape Character Areas 63 Waun Wyddyl, 64 Banc Troedrhiwseiri & 75 Bont Goch

Protheroe Jones: Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project (1992-3) Field notes and drawings 56 Mynydd Gorddu.

APPENDIX 1: MAP AND NOTES CREATED BY PROTHEROE JONES



Ordnance Survey 2nd edition showing arrangement of features within Mynydd Gorddu mine (taken from R. Protheroe Jones Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project field notes and drawings).

56 Mynyddgorddu

Visited 13. III. 1993

- ① Minimal hollows on site of trial shafts
- ② No trace of shaft
- ③ large rubbish filled hollow on site of shaft
- ④ Engine Shaft: large, rock cut, slightly caved at collar, open. 7' wide x 15' long rectangular masonry angle bob pit, fairly intact on south side. For shafts just to north - possible site of balance bob?
- ⑤ Partly grassy development rock dump with slight gully for winding rope / flat rods at west side.
- ⑥ Ruinous building - office?
- ⑦ Open, rock cut level; wet
- ⑧ Very ruinous building
- ⑨ Grassy well preserved tank; breached in centre of south bank.
- ⑩ Grassy tips
- ⑪ Ruins of house
- ⑫ Minor ruin
- ⑬ Coarse waste tip with very ruinous ore bin at southern edge
- ⑭ This area of tips mostly removed
- ⑮ Barely recognisable ruins of wheelpit: badly bulldozed; no trace of structure at bottom site. Minimal traces of crusher house on west side.
- ⑯ Retaining walls partially survive to a low height.
- ⑰ Retaining wall survives to 5' height
- ⑱ No trace of buddles
- ⑲ Tanks recognisable (NW one still in water) but in very poor condition.
- ⑳ Large slope of fines tips, cascading into pumping wheelpit
- ㉑ Faint outline of slime pits
- ㉒ Rock cut gully is sole trace of route of flat rods / winding rope
- ㉓ Pumping wheelpit: 45' x 7' in fairly good condition; south wall disappeared from both ~~lower~~ ~~lower~~ wheelpit and probable winder leading to E. Balance bob pit to SW is in good condition. No trace of linear feature to north.
- ㉔ Grassy tip from excavation of wheelpit.

Description of numbered features within Mynydd Gorddu mine (taken from R. Protheroe Jones Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project field notes and drawings).

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 63 WAUN WYDDYL

GRID REFERENCE: SN 669874

AREA IN HECTARES: 385.4

Historic Background

The history of this small upland area has not been researched. On the tithe map (Llanfihangel Gencu'r glyn, 1847) it is shown unenclosed, and was probably considered crown land, a situation that is likely to have prevailed for several centuries prior to 1847. In the second half of the 19th century the area was divided into very large fields. A wind farm has now been established here.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area consists of a rounded hill which achieves heights of over 340m. Generally the hill sides run down to 250m, but some of the steeper lower slopes descend to less than 150m. Formerly it has been divided into large fields by earth banks - there are no hedges present now, though gorse bushes grow on some banks - but these are now largely redundant and wire fences now provide stock-proof boundaries. Improved grazing dominates, but rushy and peaty hollows are present as well as rough grazing and bracken on the steeper slopes. There are no inhabited settlements. A short-lived (opened 1897) railway/tramway traverses the lower northern slopes. A wind farm has recently been constructed on the crest of the hill.

Recorded archaeology is dominated by the remains of minor metal mines on the northern flanks and summit of the area. An impressive Iron Age fort, Pen Dinas, two possible Bronze Age round barrows and two possible Bronze Age standing stones provide time-depth to this otherwise somewhat featureless landscape.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 64 BANC TROEDRHIWSEIRI

GRID REFERENCE: SN670854

AREA IN HECTARES: 253.1

Historic Background

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida's Y Dywarchen Grange (Williams 1990, 57), where it probably served as upland pasture. In post-Medieval times the land passed into the possession of the Gogerddan and Crosswood estates. Late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 67; Crosswood 345-6; Vol 38, 10, 12, 14) show the area as completely unenclosed except for two cottages or farms each with one or two paddocks close to the dwellings. By the 1840s the whole area had been divided into a system of medium- to large-sized, regular fields. Within this area lies Court Grange metal mine. The mine had been worked since 1695, but as with most mines in Ceredigion it was the 19th century that witnessed the main period of working. It closed in the last decade of the 19th century (Bick 1988, 28-31)

Description and essential historic landscape components

A rounded, east-west aligned ridge which achieves its maximum elevation of 255m at its eastern end. Its flanks to the north and south run down to 130m-150m. Virtually the whole area is improved grazing, but there are hollows of peaty and rushy ground, and rougher land of bracken and gorse on the steeper slopes. The area has been divided into a series of very large enclosures by earth and stony banks, but these are now mostly redundant and wire fences form the stock-proof boundaries. Very occasional derelict hedges occur on some boundary banks, but this is essentially a treeless landscape apart from small stands of deciduous and conifer trees on the northern flanks. There are no inhabited settlements in the area. Remains of the lead mining industry include tips, a wheel pit, shafts, a reservoir and leats.

Other than remains of the metal mining industry, Bronze Age monuments form the greater part of the archaeological record. Two standing stones and a possible third stone lie within the area, as do a ring barrow and a burnt mound or hearth - possibly indicative of a settlement site.

To the north and south this area is well defined by lower-lying enclosed land (areas 75, 76, 100). To the east and west there is no clear definition between this area and areas 62 and 86, though these are of a different character. 86 is lower-lying more anciently enclosed land. 62 was unenclosed until relatively recently.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 75 BONT-GOCH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 687864

AREA IN HECTARES: 311.4

Historic Background

The history of this area has not been researched. Up until two centuries ago much of the land was unenclosed and was therefore probably claimed by the Crown. Some holdings, however, by the late 18th-century were in the possession of the Crosswood and Court Grange estates. Late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood 345/46; NLW Vol 38, 16) show a very different landscape from that of today. Two centuries ago very little settlement and enclosure existed here, although some cottages on unenclosed moorland are depicted, as well as one farm shown surrounded by a few small fields with woodland on steep slopes. Metal mines were also depicted. Indeed it is the metal mining industry that provided the stimulus for settlement. Llanerch-chwydau mine is quite ancient. It was worked in the 17th century, but not later. Mynydd Gorddu mine was active in the second half of the 19th century, seemingly coming to an end before the end of that century (Bick 1988, 31-2). Cottages and other settlements gradually developed during the 19th century, and land was enclosed. A church was established in 1868 (Jones 1998, 487), and later a school. It is likely that many of the cottages originated as squatter settlements on unenclosed land. The 20th century has witnessed a slow abandonment of dwellings. A water works was built in the 20th century; the original structure now replaced by a modern installation. The garden at Plas Cefn-gwyn is recorded on the Welsh Historic Gardens Database.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This complex area is centred on the open upper valley of the Afon Leri, situated between 150m and 250m. Bont-goch is a loosely nucleated settlement surrounded by a pattern of widely dispersed farms and cottages. Older traditional dwellings - stone-built with slate roofs - are interspersed with modern rendered concrete dwellings. Plas Cefn Gwyn, built in 1822 and now listed, is a two-storey dwelling. Also listed are the stone-built structures of Y Felin house, its out-buildings and mill. The late 19th-century church and nearby (closed) school provides a focus for the settlement. Farms have steel-frame farm-buildings annexed to them and occasional corrugated-iron structures. A stone-built water works close to the centre of the village is dwarfed by a modern installation of concrete and steel. Field patterning is of small irregular enclosures divided by earth and stony banks. Hedges have either gone or only survive in a derelict state on the lower slopes, apart from alongside roads where they are in good condition. At the time of the survey one roadside hedge was being laid. Occasional distinctive hedgerow trees survive on some boundaries. Stands of deciduous woodland are present. This old field pattern is beginning to decay; not only are most fields now divided by wire fences, but in some areas pasture has reverted to rough, rushy ground. Some peaty hollows are evident. However, other fields are now of improved grazing. Remains of the metal mining industry are prominent historic landscape components, especially towards the western end of the area - Mynydd Gorddu mine - where extensive tips survive.

Recorded archaeology mostly consists of metal mine remains and associated features such as leats and reservoirs, or buildings - church, farms - and deserted settlements. Greater time-depth to the landscape is provided by a Medieval holy well with a possible Dark Age dedication to St Padarn, several Bronze Age burnt mounds or hearths - possible settlement sites, and a possible Bronze Age standing stone.

This area is well-defined on all sides except to the north where it merges with areas 92 and 103. Elsewhere, high, formerly unenclosed land (areas 20, 62, 63, 64, 74) borders this area.

FFWRNES BLWM (MYNYDD GORDDU)
W/11/4289

Cambria report no. 2005/63
Project Record No. 49916

This report has been prepared by Helen Milne
Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature H. L. Milne Date 26/05/05.....

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on
behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.
Position: Head of Heritage Management (Cambria Archaeology)

Signature Louise Austin Date 27/05/05.....

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome
any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this
report