

Cwmgloyne MPP 13

Historic Environment Report



**A view of the Gloyn valley, once used as a scenic route
to the mansion of Cwmgloyne**

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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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Cwmgloyne
Historic Environment Report

By

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INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to provide a statement on the condition and recommended management of all known archaeological and historical sites and features at the time they were visited by Cambria Archaeology. These recommendations will be used to inform the management plan.

Method Statement

The visit consisted of two phases:

Phase 1 was a rapid search of all readily available documentary, cartographic and published sources to try to understand the historical development of the area and the wider landscape and to identify new sites of archaeological interest. The searches include information held in the regional Sites and Monuments Record. New sites, or areas of interest were plotted onto a Geographical Information System based map for use during the field survey and for the final report.

Phase 2 was a field visit to assess the extent, character and current condition of the archaeological and historical sites identified during the research phase. Recording is rapid and consists of photographs and sites notes. The information gained during the visit has been used to determine their management recommendations.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Cwmgloyne woodland is centred on NGR SN 10523967 situated within Nevern community, Pembrokeshire. It was visited by Cambria Archaeology on the 9th December 2003.

The woodland parcel lies immediately to the northeast of Felindre Farchog, extending approximately a kilometre either side of a ravine which leads up to the house of Cwmgloyne. Although this is now a farmstead, Cwmgloyne was once a mansion which stretches back at least as far as the 16th century. A stream, the Gloyn, rises at the complex of Cwmgloyne and winds down this picturesque valley.

The archaeological interest of the woodland parcel is significant. The parcel includes a hillfort and an associated enclosure or annexe; features which have been recognised as nationally important and designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Pe 306).

In addition the ravine was formerly used as the entrance to Cwmgloyne mansion. The recollections of R.M. Lockley writing in 1940, are recorded in Francis Jones, "The clear spring issuing from the rocks at Cwmgloyn flows through a steep sided wooded ravine containing a beautiful drive from lodge gates in the hamlet of Velindre, but the woods have lately been felled and the lodge become roofless, and in the general levelling of human society, Cwmgloyn like many another late medieval manor, is now an ordinary farm." (Jones, 1996, p52). This beautiful drive is still much in evidence, the gate piers and the lodge, although sadly overgrown and rather easy to miss, signify the entrance to the drive north of Felindre Farchog. However, there are other, more subtle features along its course which point to the natural landscape being artificially enhanced to create picturesque focal points, these include a water fall and a dam. The driveway to the mansion appears to follow the course of the Gloyn, although in some places they become one and the same.

As described above it appears that a significant amount of woodland was felled in 1940, and currently large sections of the parcel are given over to mature conifer plantation. However, sections of the relic deciduous wood survive and in addition there are individual specimens that continue to live amongst the plantation. The 20th century has seen the valley change from an area which was superficially 'a natural landscape' - one in which the successive owners of Cwmgloyne mansion had cultivated and designed to fit their aspirations and social status - to one in which commercial interests had begun to take hold. There is still much of this earlier landscape surviving and the future management of the woodland should endeavour to retain this historic landscape.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the management recommendations for specific sites which are detailed in the gazetteer below, more general recommendations apply to the management of the landscape as a whole. This area of woodland has, in part, been turned over to a commercial woodland with conifers extensively planted for harvesting at some point in the not distant future. The extraction of timber should be carefully considered so as not to cause damage to historic features. In particular the creation and upgrading of existing trackways should be carried out with sensitivity to the picturesque qualities which were enhanced during the 18th and 19th centuries. Undoubtedly better access than is currently available will be required and it has been suggested that a section of trackway will be created where the current drive and stream meet and become one. A certain amount of disruption will be necessary, however if possible this should only be temporary in nature and the visual impact softened where possible.

The historic aspects of the woodland landscape and the individual elements within it, have a strong visual appeal which enhances the public footpath running through a large part of it. There is a great opportunity here to add further interest and amenity to the walk by fairly simple measures such as clearing some of the excessive vegetation which now obscures these features.

GAZETTEER OF SITES AND MONUMENTS

PRN	963	Site Name	CWM GLOYNE	Grid Reference	SN10383967;
Site Type	HILLFORT	Period	Iron Age	Site status	SAM Pe 306

Description

This site and the adjoining annexe, Prn 964, are considered to be of national significance and consequently have been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Pe 306). The scheduled area includes the main hillfort site, situated on the east side of a natural spur and to the west, separated by a deep natural ravine, is the annexe enclosure (Prn 964).

The site is defended by steep natural slopes on all but the northern side. The northern side is protected by a well preserved bank and external ditch. The Ordnance Survey have also noted a wall topping the bank. The entrance lies to the northwest, flanked by a possible hut site. A short distance to the northwest is another enclosure (PRN 964) separated by a steep ravine, described by Cadw as an annexe to the hillfort and both included within the same area of scheduling. Further features lie in the field to the north, outside the area of scheduling.

Hillforts are generally regarded as Iron Age (c600 BC – 100 AD) in date but some have been dated back to the Bronze Age (c2000-500 BC). Generally viewed as being built to defend and secure property they are also locations for dwellings used on a seasonal or more permanent basis.

Large oaks and sycamore trees predominate in the interior of the hillfort, with a ground cover of grass. However, the hillfort is heavily overgrown with trees and brambles in some areas, making access almost impossible. In addition along the northern area of the site, along the earthwork defences are a number of badger setts.

Recommendations

The following management recommendations have been drawn up in consultation with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, please note the scheduled area which has been highlighted on the attached map.

The management aim for the site should be to maintain as stable an environment as possible, any disturbance of the ground surface could potentially cause damage to sensitive archaeological remains. The sites' status as a scheduled ancient monument makes it an offence for any activities which would disturb the ground surface to be carried out within the scheduled area. It was observed during the site visit that there were two natural threats which may be causing damage to the hillfort, the first was a number of badger setts which are causing ground disturbance and tree fall lifting root plate. However neither of these problems would appear to form a significant threat at present.

The future management of the site should endeavour to maintain the present woodland cover over the site. Some areas may benefit from some selective thinning, particularly over the defensive banks, which would promote the growth of selected oaks and develop a high forest canopy.

Where there is currently a dense cover of brambles it would also be beneficial to encourage the establishment of a woodland canopy, which would shade out bramble and scrub growth.

Any works on the monument should only be carried out when ground conditions are dry. Felling or cutting should be to ground level and the roots should be left in place to avoid disturbing the archaeological layers. Machinery used on site should not cause damage to the ground surface. Brash should not be dumped within the scheduled area, which includes the interiors, defensive banks and ditches.

Site Category A



Prn 963 – the western defences of the hillfort and the annexe (Prn 964) to the left of the picture

PRN	964	Site Name	CWM GLOYNE	Grid Reference	SN10323970
Site Type	HILLFORT ANNEXE	Period	Iron Age	Site Status	SAM Pe 306

Description

To the northwest of the hillfort (Prn 963) is an annexe enclosure, subsidiary to the main hillfort and separated by a ravine. Like the hillfort itself it is situated on a natural spur and so naturally defended on all sides except the north by steep slopes. To the north are traces of artificial defences, where a bank and slight external ditch have been recorded. This annexe enclosure is an integral part of the hillfort and has also been recognised as a monument of national importance which is included within the scheduled area (SAM Pe 306).

A footpath skirts around the edge of the scheduled area at the base of the natural slope to the west.

The site visit found that the site was in a reasonably stable condition, with mature trees growing over much of the interior and an understorey of grass and low growing woodland vegetation. Where there is less woodland shading there are thickets of brambles.

Recommendations

The following management recommendations have been drawn up in consultation with Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, please note the scheduled area which has been highlighted on the attached map.

The management aim for this site is to maintain the ground surface in a stable and undisturbed condition. It is also desirable that the site is maintained in a visible state, and kept free from scrub or bramble, to benefit the footpath which runs to the west of the site.

Management of the site should continue to maintain the high forest canopy which exists over much of this site. If any coppicing or felling is carried out it should be carried out when ground conditions are dry, and roots should always be left in place, in order to cause as little ground disturbance as possible. Brash should be removed from the scheduled area.

Site Category A



Prn 964 – the annexe to the hillfort (Prn 963), viewed from the public footpath to the northwest.

PRN	50017	Site Name	Grid Reference	SN10203920; SN21033947; SN10663992
Site Type	DRIVEWAY	Period	Post	Medieval

Description

This was the earlier drive which was used to approach Cwmgloyne mansion. It is shown on the both the tithe maps of Bayvil and Nevern Parishes and is clearly indicated on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1907. The entrance to the driveway is marked on the west side by the small lodge Prn 50022, and a gateway 50023. The driveway winds its way up the west side of the Gloyn although in one section the driveway appears to use the stream bed itself. The drive does not appear to be surfaced but cut into the natural geology.

There are various features along the length of the drive which appear to have been constructed to increase the visual amenity of the route.

Recommendations

Any works to the drive should take efforts to be sympathetic to the historic background of this route which was used as a picturesque approach to the mansion of Cwmgloyne.

Site Category C



Prn 50017 – the Gloyn valley, in this section the driveway appears to use the bed of the stream.

PRN 50018 **Site Name** **Grid Reference** SN21033947

Site Type WATERFALL **Period** Post Medieval

Description

A small waterfall no more than 2 metres deep appears to have been artificially enhanced to create a picturesque scene on the earlier drive which was used to approach Cwmgloyne mansion.

Recommendations

This waterfall should be retained as part of the scenic drive up to the mansion of Cwmgloyne.

Site Category C



Prn 50018 – a number of boulders appear to have been collected together to enhance a waterfall beside the old driveway to Cwmgloyne

PRN	50019	Site Name	Grid Reference	SN10553976
Site Type	DAM	Period	Post Medieval	

Description

The remains of a dam and its associated pond are visible towards the upper end of the valley. The dam is now breached and no water is retained behind it. The revetment stands to approximately 1.3 metres high and is battered to either side. The widest point, at the base, is 5-6 metres across. The central portion, which presumably held some kind of sluice, has collapsed. What remains indicates that the structure is largely stone and earth built, with some masonry visible to suggest the framework of a possible sluice.

There is no indication of a pond on any of the available early map sources, however this structure is clearly of some antiquity. It would seem likely that the structure was not built for industrial purposes - the mill at Felindre-farchog was served by a leat taken from the Afon Nevern – but it would appear that this pond and dam may have served to enhance the picturesque qualities of the valley, which would be observed by approaching visitors to Cwmgloyne mansion.

Although breached, the dam wall is still visible and forms a substantial landscape feature. However, there are the remains of several young fallen saplings which lie scattered over the revetment wall and also within the breach. Not only do these fallen trees obscure the dam but also they could cause further damage to the structure, particularly when the stream rises and becomes more forceful.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the fallen trees are removed from the breach and the vicinity of the pond in order to avoid damage to the masonry and earth structure of the dam. Some selective felling of the weaker standing trees to encourage the establishment of stronger individual specimens may help to avoid haphazard tree fall in the future.

Site Category C



Prn 50019 – a large dam has been created in the upper reaches of the Gloyn,
although it is breached in the centre



Prn 50020 – a fine stone built culvert with a corbelled roof channels the Gloyn just below the entrance to Cwmgloyne mansion.

PRN	50021	Site Name	Grid Reference	SN10613987
Site Type	ENCLOSURE	Period	Post Medieval	

Description

A relic sub-rectangular enclosure approximately 40 metres by 35 metres is identifiable on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1907. It is not apparent on the tithe map of 1845 of Bayvil Parish. The enclosure is visible as a low earthwork bank approximately 3metres wide at its base and no higher than 0.25 metre on the interior. The natural ground surface slopes away on the northeast, southeast and southwest sides. The western edge of the enclosure projects into the adjacent field. Within it there are the remains of some coppice stools although the area is now planted with conifers.

It is unknown what the function of this enclosure was, the early maps indicate that there was rough ground within it at the beginning of the 20th century and that when the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map was recorded it there were deciduous trees covering this area. It is possible that it may relate to a landscaping feature or focal point which formed part of an artificially enhanced landscape around the mansion.

Recommendations

The ideal management of this site would be to retain the earthwork banks undamaged. Extra care should be taken when harvesting the conifers that damage is not caused to the ground surface and that the profile of the banks is retained. Ideally any works in this area should be carried out in dry conditions. The tree roots should also be left in place and not grubbed up.

Site Category C

Prn 50021 – an sub-rectangular enclosure is marked on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps and can still be identified on the ground by low earthwork banks.

PRN	50022	Site Name	Grid Reference	SN10173917
Site Type	LODGE	Period	Post Medieval	

Description

A small lodge is situated at the end of the southern end of the drive. The lodge survives as a roofless ruin and is now overgrown and almost invisible, being almost engulfed with Japanese knotweed. The lodge appears to have been only one-storey high with a doorway and window built with pointed arches which face onto the drive.

Recommendations

It appears that this building does not fall within the boundary of the woodland which is proposed to enter the scheme.

Site Category B

PRN **50024** **Site Name** **Grid** **SN10103916**
Reference

Site Type **COTTAGE** **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

A cottage is recorded on the tithe map of 1845, it also appears on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1891 and 1907 although it appears that by this time it was no longer in use. The site of the cottage is located in rough ground and there is no visible trace of it.

Recommendations

Although the cottage is no longer visible there may be sensitive archaeological deposits which survive below ground level. Therefore this area should not be subjected to any ground disturbing activities.

Site Category **D**

PRN **50025** **Site Name** **Grid Reference** **SN10543955**

Site Type **QUARRY** **Period** **Post**
Medieval

Description

This site was not visited and its current condition is unknown.

Recommendations

The quarry should be kept open and clear as a visible historic landscape feature.

Site Category **D**

SITE AND AREA STATUS GLOSSARY

The following abbreviations are used in the gazetteer to refer to site and area status. These schedules, lists and registers are compiled and maintained by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

SAM - Scheduled Ancient Monument

This is a statutory designation. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

LB1, LB2* & LB2 – Listed Building 1, 2* & 2

This is a statutory designation. Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

HLW - Historic Landscapes of Wales

Historic Landscapes of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 2.1 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest and Part 2.2 Landscapes of Special Historic Interest*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

PGW - Parks and Gardens of Wales

Parks and Gardens of Wales are defined by the *Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales: Part 1 Parks and Gardens*. The register is advisory and has no statutory powers.

REFERENCES

Tithe Map of Bayvil Parish 1845, Apportionment 1844

Tithe Map of Nevern Parish 18? Apportionment 1840

Cwmgloyne
 Historic Environment Consultation
 Reference MPP 13
 Cambria Archaeology Reference PRN 49978
 National Grid Reference SN10523967

 Boundary

Site Category A - National Importance

 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings

 Sites and Buildings of National Importance
 without a statutory designation

Site Category B - Regional Importance

 Sites and Buildings of Regional Importance
 including Grade 2 listed buildings

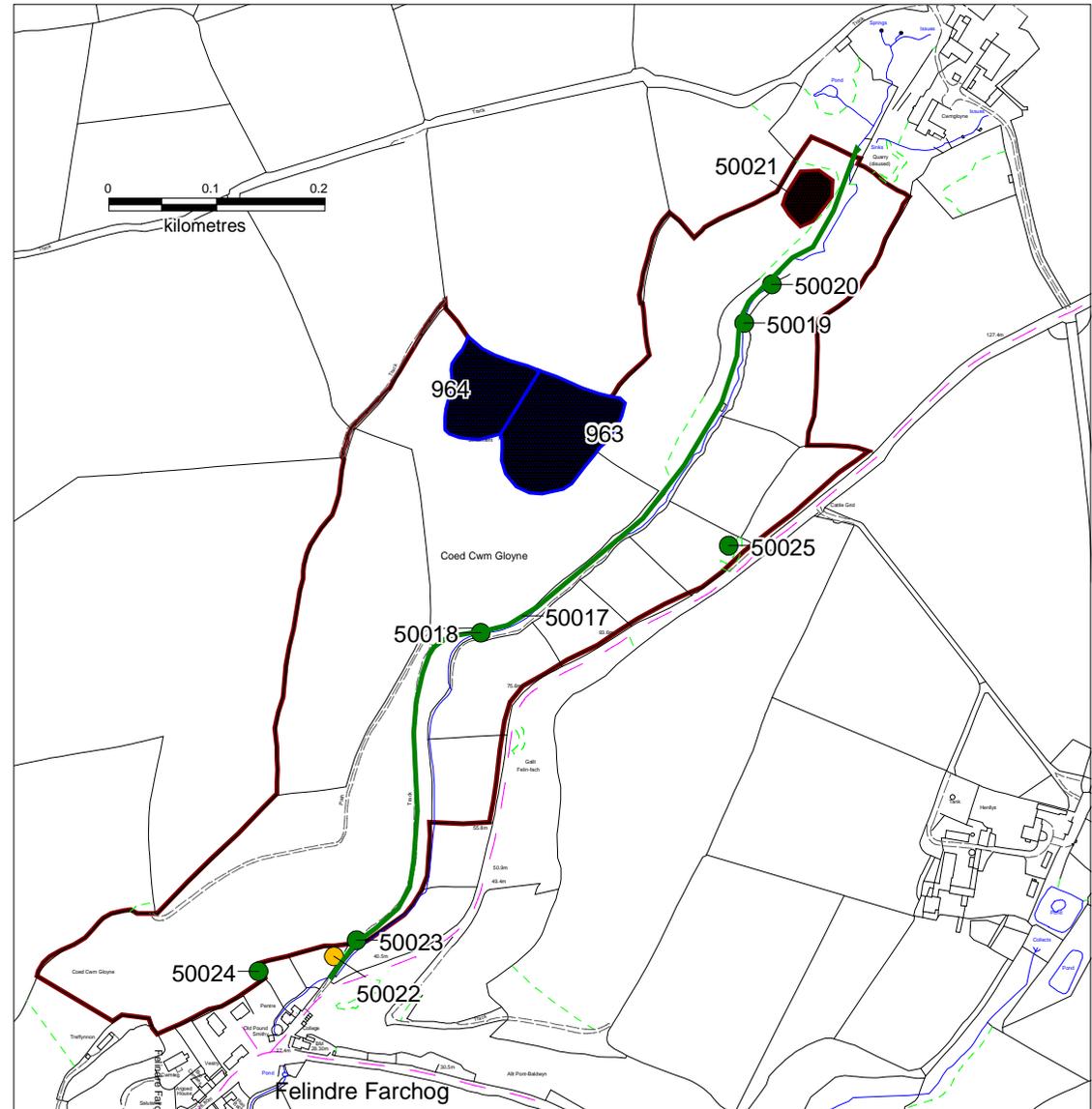
Site Category C - Local Importance

 Sites and buildings of Local Importance

Site Category D – Unknown Importance

 Sites requiring further investigation and sites with
 no physical definition

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MPP 13**

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have on the content or presentation of this report