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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



Prepared for: Ty Mawr Tir Gofal Reference No W/11/4749

Holding No: 4749

ACA Report No. 2005/34 Project Record No. 52231 Prepared by: Helen Milne

Other documents enclosed:

Historic Landscape Character Area 17: Fuches Wen. Upland Ceredigion. Historic Landscape Character Area 60: Ysbyty Cynfyn. Upland Ceredigion

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Ty Mawr is centred on SN75757913 in Blaenrheidol community, Ceredigion. It falls within Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 2). This area has been further divided under the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. Historic Landscape Character Areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape. Ty Mawr falls within two such areas. The enclosed western part of the farm is included within area 60: Ysbyty Cynfyn, whilst the open land to the east is assigned within area 17: Fuches Wen. The landscape in the immediate vicinity of the farmstead is characterised by irregular fields and dispersed farmsteads. Land drops away to the south and west, eventually meeting the Rheidol valley. The precise origins of this landscape are not clear, although it has been suggested that the pattern of dispersed farms is of Medieval date (Murphy 1999). The rest of the holding to the north and east of the farmstead consists of unenclosed upland rising to over 450m high with rock outcrops on some of the higher summits.

Archaeological and Historic Content

Recorded archaeological content on this holding includes evidence of prehistoric occupation, which survives in the form of a Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 34858). Round barrows represent the dominant burial tradition during the Bronze Age (2000-600 BC). When excavated they have been found to contain cist lined inhumation burials or cremation burials, the ashes being contained in pottery urns of various types. The mainstay of archaeological content is confined to evidence of rural settlement. Two long huts (PRNs 34856 Nant Gwynion, 34859 Mynydd Yr Ychen) fall within the farm boundary. Their precise origins are not known but long huts are commonly interpreted as shelters or shepherds huts. Ridge and furrow cultivation in the vicinity of Mynydd yr Ychen suggest that this site at least may have been occupied on a more permanent basis however. Long huts are difficult to date without excavation, but could either date to the medieval or post-medieval period. The area later came to be incorporated into the Nanteos estate. An interesting feature is a wellbuilt stone boundary, which bisects the holding on a north-south alignment. It is believed that the wall was built to define the grazing area on Mynydd Yr Ychen where estate cattle were brought during the summer to graze the heather. Records of the Nanteos estate also provide the earliest known reference to Ty Mawr farmstead in 1764. Within the bounds of the holding, and occupied contemporarily with Ty Mawr farmstead are two abandoned dwellings/minor farmsteads. Traces of a small lead mine are present (PRN 25906) along the banks of Nant Ysbyty Cynfyn, which forms the farms southern boundary. It is not known when the mine was in operation but a level is marked on both the 1st edition (1887), and 2nd. Edition (1905) Ordnance Survey maps. Associated spoil tips survive within the farm boundary. Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

Management Priority

The priority for the historic environment of the Ty Mawr holding is the appropriate maintenance of traditional buildings, and sensitive management of abandoned rural settlement that characterises this area. These sites should be maintained in a stable condition, and upstanding remains should be preserved as visible elements of the historic landscape.

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	ESGAIR-WYNION (9353)	Post Medieval cottage	SN76297	881 B	Specific

Recorded as a ruined drystone cottage in 1979. The visible remains of this site lie on the north side of the trackway which runs through Ty Mawr farmstead and up the northern side of the Nant Ysbyty Cynfyn valley.



The visible remains of Esgair-Wynion farmstead (looking west)

The remains are not substantial, but map evidence suggests that this was a small farmstead rather than a cottage site. The site is marked and named as Esgair Gwynion on the Old Series Ordnance Survey map of 1834. It is also marked and named on both first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps. An estate plan of unknown date (acquired from the land-owner) depicts two parallel buildings in this location, but the farmstead appears to have had several changes in layout. A single building is marked on the second edition, whilst the first edition shows a single building and the remains of another (lying to the west of both buildings depicted on the estate map). The walls of this building are the only surviving above ground

remains now visible. These walls lie at the western end of a platform which is cut into a south facing slope. The map evidence cited above suggests that this platform probably accommodated other farm buildings in the past. There is no rubble on the eastern part of the platform now, and it seems likely that the remains of other buildings have been quarried as a source of stone for repair work over the years. Historic maps show enclosures to the north of the main steading area, and these are now represented by a series of low banks. A ruinous drystone cottage. Identified on the Ordnance Survey Old Series map (1834) and shown on the 1st edition map (1887) with associated enclosures.

2 NANT-Y-MAES (9375) Post Medieval SN75987903 B Specific cottage

A two cell building of rubble-stone construction, measuring c. 11.5m lengthways, by c. 5m across, with central stone partition.



Internal view of Nant-y-Maes looking east.

The building is orientated east - west, along the contour, and is built into a south facing slope, with the northern elevation dug into the ground. The general construction, particularly the inclusion of two ventilation slits on the southern elevation, suggests that it was originally built as a barn, but it is known to have been occupied as a cottage during the 19th and early 20th centuries. There is structural evidence to suggest that the building has been modified in the past, including a blocked entrance with straight joints on the west facing gable end. The present entrance looks more recent - externally the arch has been constructed of bricks, whilst internally there is a wooden supporting lintel, and the stone-work on either side of the door is quite rough. This southern door may have been built to replace the western entrance (now blocked) at the time when the building was converted for human habitation.



Southern elevation of Nant-y-Maes, showing ventilation slits.

The farmer remembers that the roof of this building finally collapsed about fourteen years ago. He believed that it was originally made of stone slates, graded in diminishing courses, although these were later replaced by standard grey slate. At the time of the archaeological farm visit there were examples of both types in the vicinity of the building. He also remembers that there was a wicker chimney hood in the eastern part of the building. Two small niches of unknown function on the internal face of the eastern gable end may represent

small bread ovens/ warming areas. The building is deteriorating at a steady rate, and portions of it have collapsed relatively recently. The front (southern) elevation has exposed foundations at its' base, which are currently being undermined, and will eventually cause this side of the building to collapse if left unremedied. The building is marked and named as Nant-y-maes on both first (1887), and second (1905) edition Ordnance Survey maps, suggesting that it was being used as a dwelling at this time. It is not shown on the 1764 Nanteos estate map (Nanteos 316, NLW). (Grid reference corrected from SN759 790 to SN7597 7902).

TY-MAWR (9433) Post Medieval toll SN75537928 B Generic house

Seen by Mynydd y Ffynnon project staff in 1997. Now demolished and reduced to wall bases, but still identifiable by its characteristic plan as a tollhouse. Of 19th century date, certainly occupied at time of 1841 census.

YSBYTY-CYNFYN Post Medieval lead SN761787 B Generic (25906) mine

A minor metal mine working, marked as 'Level (lead)' on both first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps. Some surface traces of the workings survive; including an open adit and some spoil tips. The site occupies the bottom of a small stream valley (Nant Ysbyty Cynfyn), and is bisected by the Ty Mawr boundary fence. The remains within the boundary of the Ty Mawr holding consist of spoil heaps, the adit can be seen entering the bank on the opposite (south) side of Nant Ysbyty Cynfyn. The condition of this site at the time of the archaeological farm visit was stable. On a platform created by the western area of tipping, on the north bank of Nant Ysbyty Cynfyn, stand the modern remains of a teepee. This structure has not caused any perceivable damage to the mining remains.

Spoil heaps associated with lead level 25,906 (looking northwest)

TYMAWR (33189) Post Medieval SN757791 B Generic farmstead

Working farmstead. Complex retains many original features. The earliest known reference to Ty mawr is provided on a map of the Nanteos Estate dated 1764. By the time of the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1887, 1905) the farmstead is shown with buildings arranged on either side of a road. From recent map evidence it would seem that this layout is essentially unaltered today: recent fieldwork (Sambrook & Darke 1997) described the complex as retaining many original features including goat pen, pig sty and threshing floor. The owners believe that there has been some change in the layout of the farmstead, but it is not clear when this occurred. They state that an earlier house occupied the north-eastern end of the now seperate range of traditional buildings. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas, and Ty Mawr has been occupied over a long period of time. Buried archaeological remains may survive in the vicinity of the present farmstead.

NANT GWYNION I Medieval?;Post SN76077906 B Generic (34856) Medieval? long hut?

Possible longhut. The feature consists of "Faint earthwork traces of a rectilinear structure, c.13m by 4m; within a small enclosure." The site is close to a possible hut platform (PRN 34,857), and also ridge and furrow cultivation (PRN 53,097). The farmer remembered a tradition that suggests this was once an oathouse. It is not clear if this was its original function, but the tradition seems very credible given the

widespread use of oats as an upland cereal crop, and the proximity of the feature to evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation. The regime of light upland grazing has maintained this site in stable condition.

NANT GWYNION II Medieval?;Post SN76137907 B Generic (34857) Medieval? platform

This bare platform, scooped into the foot of a slope is close to a possible long-hut (PRN 34,856), and ridge and furrow cultivation (PRN 53,097) on an adjacent terrace. The regime of light upland grazing has maintained this site in stable condition.

BANC TY MAWR Bronze Age round SN76577895 B Generic barrow

This round-barrow was described by Cambria Archaeology in 1997 as "10m in diameter by 1m high on a natural terrace between two prominent hilltops at the top of Banc Ty Mawr". This feature was not located during the archaeological farm visit.

MYNYDD YR YCHEN Medieval?;Post SN76627925 B Generic (34859) Medieval? long hut

Well preserved earth and stone built rectilinear dwelling, 13m x 6m, no associated features recorded. In well sheltered position.

BANC TY MAWR Post Medieval SN764790 B Generic (34862) trackway - peat cutter's

Grassy trackway which crosses Banc Ty Mawr, heading in the direction of the large turbary on Y Dderw.

MYNYDD YR YCHEN Post Medieval SN76407919 B Generic (34863) boundary wall

Well built stone wall, surviving up to 1.5m high. This is the boundary of enclosed land on early Nanteos estate maps. Oral evidence suggests this wall was built at an unknown time by the Hafod estate to define the grazing area on Mynydd yr Ychen where estate cattle were brought during the summer to graze the heather there - a good supplement to the copper in their diet. This wall has survived well in places, but there are some areas of collapse.

MYNYDD YR YCHEN Post Medieval SN76277930 B Generic (34864) shelter

This small dry-stone structure is built into a south facing slope. It measures c. 2.6m x 2m, and the walls still stand to over 1.5m. It was used to pen geese by Ty Mawr farm within living memory - at the end of the day the geese had to be put away in the pen, which is over half a kilometre away from Ty Mawr farmstead. The entrance faces south, and on the east side, attached to the pen is a level platform built of the same stone, and capped with a slab. The function of this platform is unclear, but the farmer though it may have been a stand for feed. The roof of the pen is now gone, but a sheet of corrugated iron is propped against the structure, and may represent surviving roof material. There are two flat stone slabs propped against the front (south side) of the pen, whose function is unknown.



'Goose pen' at Ty Mawr, showing platform on east side

Linear depression in rough upland pasture, c. 4.5m in length by 1.5m wide. Probably a root vegetable clamp. Condition good.



Linear feature 53,093

MYNYDD YR YCHEN Post Med storage SN7581379539 B (53094) clamp

Generic

Two parallel linear depressions in tightly grazed upland pasture, each feature c. 6 - 7m in length by 2m wide. These can be interpreted as root vegetable clamps. Truncated at eastern end by old wheel ruts (now grassed over).



Parallel storage clamps (53,094)

MYNYDD YR YCHEN Post Med storage SN7578179434 B Generic (53095) Clamp

Linear depression in tightly grazed upland pasture. C. 4.5m long by 1.5m wide, likely to be a further storage clamp.



Storage clamp (53,095)

(53096)

A series of long flat stone slabs underpin the more recent fabric of this bridge over Nant Gwynion



Overall shot of bridge 53,096



Detail showing flat stone slabs

NANT GWYNION (53097)

Post Med ridge and furrow

SN7613479015 B

Generic

An area of ridge and furrow cultivation probably associated with abandoned settlement close by (PRNs 34,856; 34,857 and 9,375). Exact extent uncertain

NANT GWYNION (53098)

Post Med storage SN7615079040 B clamp

Generic

Linear depression in rough upland pasture. C. 4.5m long by 1.5m wide. Physical evidence and local knowledge suggest this was a storage clamp for root crops



Storage clamp 53,098

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 ESGAIR-WYNION (9353) SN76297881

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

The farmer wishes to use the flattened area on the eastern side of this site to position poly-tunnels for housing livestock. The visible remains of this farmstead are confined to the western side of the area, but there may be surviving sub-surface archaeological remains in the area. In order to avoid damaging any surviving below ground remains, no excavation should take place in the area. Material should not be removed to create a level platform; rather levelling should be achieved by depositing material to raft over the existing ground surface. Please contact Cambria Archaeology when work is to be undertaken on this site.

Site 2 on MAP 1 NANT-Y-MAES (9375) SN75987903

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

The farmer wishes to undertake restoration at Nant-y-maes. The restoration would be for residential purposes and so falls outside the scope of funding within Tir Gofal. However, it is important that within the scheme traditional buildings are maintained sympathetically using materials and techniques appropriate to the locality. The building has been used for residential purposes in the past, and as such, restoration that would make it suitable for habitation again, would be preferable to allowing the

structure to deteriorate further. Information has been included with this report to provide guidance on appropriate materials and techniques.

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
3	TYMAWR (33189)	Post Medieval	SN75779	1 B	Specific

Ty Mawr is a working farmstead, with surviving traditional buildings. The complex retains many original features, including a goat pen, a pigsty and a threshing barn with original wooden threshing floor. The earliest known reference to Ty Mawr is provided on a map of the Nanteos Estate dated 1764, it is not clear whether any surviving building fabric dates from this time. By the time of the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1887, 1905) the farmstead is shown with buildings arranged on either side of the road. The house is set back on rising land on the northwest side of the road, whilst opposite on the southeast side is the barn range. This layout is essentially unaltered today.



Ty Mawr farmstead (looking south)

The farmhouse is of standard two storey, three bay type with central doorway and opposing chimneys in either gable-end. The chimney stacks have been rebuilt in brick, and most of the exterior is cement rendered. The western un-rendered gable end shows that the house is constructed of rubble-stone. A single storey, flat roofed extension has been added to the rear, and a glass conservatory area with pitched roof added to the front (southeast) elevation. The owners believe that an earlier house occupied the northeastern end of the now separate range of traditional buildings. There is no conclusive evidence of this, but a right angled stone wall, which could represent a former dwelling, now forms a retaining wall for higher ground, which carries the road running northeast out of the farmstead. Available earlier map sources (including the tithe map of 1845, and an estate plan of c. 1818?) suggest that the route of the road through the farmstead has changed, although

insufficient detail on these maps makes it difficult to be sure of this.





Southwestern barn in the Tv Mawr range

Ty Mawr has two separate barns. The buildings lie in a row, orientated northeast - southwest. The barn at the southwestern end is set back so that the front elevation is in line with the back of the northeastern barn. The northeastern barn is constructed of rubble-stone, and has two entrances with brick voussoirs to the front (northwest) elevation. This northwest elevation is one and a half stories high The barn is a-symmetrical - the rear (southeast) elevation rises only to single storey height. The rear roof runs down at a continuous pitch to meet the lower rear wall, providing an extra aisle at the back of the barn. Attached to the northeastern end of this building is a lower, open-fronted annex, with stone built gable end and back wall. The southwestern gable end of this building is stone built with two ground-level entrances and one window, all with brick voussoirs. A ventilation slit at second-storey level is constructed entirely of stone, and appears to be an earlier feature. The whole barn structure is currently roofed with a variety of corrugated materials. Much of the roofing material is in a poor state of repair, and water has entered, causing damage to roof timbers. The rear pitch of the southwest part of this barn has been re-roofed recently with corrugated metal sheeting. Unfortunately, there is no overhang to the roof at this southwest end of the barn. The ends of the purlins are exposed, as is the stonework at the top of the apex. If this problem is not rectified, water will penetrate the wall, causing instability, and eventual collapse.

The southwestern barn appears to be the older of the main buildings within the farmstead. It is a threshing barn, and still accommodates a wooden threshing floor in the bay between tall front and rear entrances. Either side of the front entrance are two ventilation slits. The rear entrance has been modified to accommodate a metal door, and has been topped with breezeblocks, damaging the rigidity of this wall. The roof is slated, but is collapsing. Water has penetrated the roof and many of the supporting timbers are damaged.

The pigsty lies to the northeast of the farmhouse, and is a rubblestone building with enclosure at the front, currently with corrugated tin roof, and protruding tin chimney. The building has been modified to create a drying room, which has also entailed raising the height of the front elevation.



Pigsty at Ty Mawr farmstead

The goat pen also lies to the northeast of the farmhouse, and is built into rising land. The remains of this

structure are four dry-stone walls, one of which is retaining the bank of rising land to the north. The pen is currently in use for storing fencing rolls.

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 3 on MAP 1 TYMAWR (33189) SN757791

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

When replacing roof coverings, care should be taken to allow sufficient overhang at the eaves. Most traditional outbuildings did not have rainwater goods, but countered the potential problems caused by water running down walls, by providing larger overhangs at the eaves.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

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

Sources consulted:

Maps

Ordnance Survey Old Series, Sheet LVII, 1834

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Cardiganshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet VII.16; 1891. Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Cardiganshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XI.4; 1891

Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Cardiganshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XII.1; 1891 Ordnance Survey 1st. Ed. Cardiganshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet VIII SW; 1891

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Cardiganshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet VII.16; 1906.

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Cardiganshire (25" to 1 mile) Sheet XI.4; 1906.

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Cardiganshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet VIII SW; 1906

Ordnance Survey 2nd. Ed. Cardiganshire (6" to 1 mile) Sheet XII.NW; 1906

Tithe Map Llanbadarn Fawr Parish, Cardiganshire; 1845

Plan/ of the lands of/ Ty Mawr/ Yskir Wonion/ Spyty . Cenfin/ Parish of Lanbadarn fawr/ County of Cardigan/ The Property of Wm. Edwd. Powell Esqr. (copy of estate map acquired from landowner, date c. 1818?)

Other Sources

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

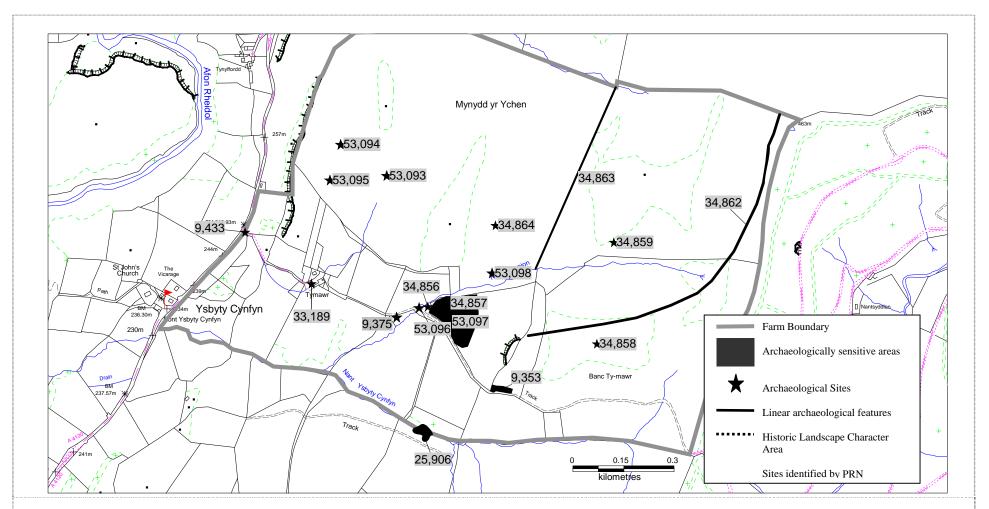
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Historic Landscape Character Area 17: Fuches Wen, Upland Ceredigion.

Historic Landscape Character Area 60: Ysbyty Cynfyn. Upland Ceredigion

Sambrook, P. & Darke, I. 1997 The Mynydd Y Ffynnon Project. ACA Reports

P. Sambrook & R. Ramsey 1998: Deserted Rural Settlement Project (Area 8 - Llanbadarn Y Creuddyn) ACA Reports. Prepared for Cadw



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UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 17 FUCHES WEN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 836799 **AREA IN HECTARES:** 1585

Historic Background

For most of the historical period, the unenclosed character of this area probably ensured that it was considered Crown land. The only pre-tithe map of the area, dated to 1819, shows Fuches Wen as unenclosed sheep-walk. The tithe map shows a similar pattern; a pattern that has in general persisted to the present day.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This is a large block of undulating upland, mostly consisting of north- and northwest-facing slopes with a height range of 300m at its northern edge to over 500m at its high points. Craggy outcrops occur on the summits. Traditionally it consists of unenclosed moorland, with blanket bog at higher levels and peaty deposits in hollows and valleys. Earth boundary banks are present on the northern lower slopes close to Dyffryn Castell, but the enclosures formed by these are now largely redundant, and wire fences divide the area into very large enclosures. Large-scale land improvement over the past few decades has resulted in the transformation of much of the lower slopes, and some high level plateaux, into grassland grazing.

Recorded archaeology of this area consists mainly of post-Medieval sites. The greater proportion of these comprise deserted settlements and associated agricultural features such as folds, enclosures, pens and tracks, indicating a populated, albeit sparsely, upland area through to the 19th century. Metal mine remains are also present. A greater time-depth element to the landscape is provided by Bronze Age round barrows.

This is a well-defined area. To the northeast and east is the lower-lying enclosed settled land of Dyffryn Castell and Ponterwyd (areas 43, 60, 84), while to the south and east are extensive tracts of upland forestry.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: **60 YSBYTY CYNFYN**

GRID REFERENCE: SN 749784 **AREA IN HECTARES:** 185.4

Historic Background

The early history of this area is unclear. Unlike much of the surrounding land it was not part of one of Strata Florida Abbey's granges. The pattern of dispersed farms is probably of at least Medieval date. Most the area came into the possession of the Nanteos estate. Early 19th-century estate maps (NLW Vol 45, 24-28) show it much as it is today: dispersed farms, small, irregular enclosures and larger enclosures on higher ground. There has been some retreat of settlement, with a farm to the east of Ty Mawr now gone, and at Erwbarfe scattered and intermixed holdings are shown; perhaps indicating the presence of a former sub-divided field system out of which the modern landscape evolved. The small church at Ysbyty Cynfyn was a chapel-of-ease and may have been a possession of the Knights Hospitaller, or may have been associated with Strata Florida Abbey. The church was rebuilt in 1827 on the site of the Medieval building (Ludlow 1998). The site of the church is of interest; several standing stones built into the churchyard wall may be of prehistoric date, though this suggestion has been challenged by Briggs (1979). A visit to the church and the Parson's Bridge waterfalls to the east in area 55 was an essential item on the itinerary of late 18th- and 19th-century tourists to north Ceredigion.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area lies on a terrace on the east bank of the Afon Rheidol at 220m - 300m Although mostly composed of smooth ground, it contains a craggy hill close Ysbyty Cynfyn Church. To the west land falls away sharply into the Rheidol valley, to the east the land rises steeply. Improved pasture is dominant, though pockets of rougher ground are present in hollows. The field patterning is of small, irregular enclosures. These are divided by earth banks topped with hedges. Apart from those on the roadside which are in good condition, most hedges are overgrown and some are becoming derelict. All are supplemented by wire fences. Close to the church field boundaries consist of dry-stone walls. These walls are in fair condition. There are small stands of broadleaf woodland. The settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads is characterised by stone-built, slate-roofed dwellings with modern houses of rendered concrete. A small caravan park is present. This area lies on a major north-south route-way, now the B4343. Though no doubt an ancient road, it was converted to a turnpike in 1770 (Lewis 1955, 43-45).

Recorded archaeology of the area mostly consists of post-Medieval settlements. The presence of several deserted sites indicates a much more densely populated landscape in the historic past. Metal mining remains are also evident. Bronze Age finds and a Bronze Age standing stone at Ysbyty Cynfyn Church provide a time-depth to the landscape.

This area is well-defined to the west and south where it borders both woodland on the steep valley side of the Rheidol and unenclosed high ground (areas 55, 18), and to the east where unenclosed land or large enclosures rise steeply to high moorland (areas 17, 58). To the north definition is less clear where this area merges with enclosed land around Ponterwyd (area 84).