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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Alltyfyrddin**



A view across the Twyi valley from Merlin's Hill Hillfort

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W4/12/5054**

**ACA Report No.2005/66
Project Record No. 52314**

**Prepared by
Alice Pyper**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This farm consists of three holdings to the northeast of Abergwili. The main holding, W/12/5054 lies around the farmstead of Alltyfyrrddin to the north and west of the prominent local landmark of Merlins Hill. Holding W/12/5054/a lies a short distance to the north on the southern bank of Nant Penycnwc. Holding W/12/5054/b lies to the northeast around the farmstead of Pant-gwyn. All three holdings lie within the Historic Landscape Character Area 183 Abergwili - Llanegwad Parish. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape and the descriptions include general management priorities. The enclosure pattern in this general area, including the three holdings, consists of medium to large irregular fields used mainly for pasture and bounded by hedges. The irregular nature of the field enclosures suggests a gradual enclosure of farmland over a relatively long period of time, the current boundaries were probably well established by the time they were recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The current settlement pattern in this area consists of dispersed farmsteads and cottages. Settlement is recorded at Bryn Myrddin from at least the early 17th century, and Alltyfyrrddin farmstead is also marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The more detailed 25" 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 also marks a blacksmiths workshop.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

This area is dominated by Merlins Hill, on top of which sits a hillfort enclosure (PRN 1745) dated to the Iron Age (a scheduled ancient monument CM231). The enclosure appears to have been built over an earlier smaller enclosure, and the prominent hill may have been a site of pre-Iron Age activity. However, the size of the hillfort and its association with later Arthurian legends marks it out as a site of some importance during the Iron Age. The site is not recorded as in use during the Roman period, but holding W/12/5054 lies adjacent to a Roman road running along the line of the present A40, and a Roman coin (PRN 47625), dated to AD364-375, has been recovered from the garden of Porth-Myrddin. William Rees, on his map purporting to show South Wales in the 14th century, marks a chapelry (PRN 49240) to Abergwili Parish somewhere in the area around W/12/5054/b that may have Early Medieval origins. The exact location of this chapel has not been established, but a cropmark (PRN 10735) within W/12/5054/b identified from aerial photography is one of the possible sites. Bryn Myrddin (PRN 53805) is a mansion built in c1858, but overlies the site of an earlier mansion named Penybank Ucha that dates back to the earlier Post Medieval period and settlement may have existed here before then. Parkland (PRN 53191) surrounds Bryn Myrddin providing an appropriately softened backdrop to the mansion. Small-scale industrial activity is indicated in this area during this period by the presence of two small quarries (PRNs 53801 & 53809).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority of the historic environment for this farm is to improve visibility of Merlin's Hill hillfort by careful scrub clearance on the northern ramparts. Restoring the historic parkland around the mansion of Bryn Myrddin by planting further specimen trees is also a landscape 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	MERLINS HILL;MERLINS GROVE (1745)	Iron Age hillfort	SN45502150	A	SAM	Specific
	<p>Merlins Hill is a prominent local landmark crowned by a univallate Iron Age hillfort with a complex entrance and outwork systems to the east. According to tradition Merlins Hill contains the cave where Merlin lies imprisoned by the magic of Morgan le Fey. Such traditions may reflect the Prehistoric importance of the site. The hillfort appears to have been predated by a smaller enclosure, an occupation layer immediately underlying the main rampart has been radio-carbon dated to 360 + 60BC and 150 +70BC. The hillfort, at the time of the visit (May 2005), was grazed by Jacob sheep. The top enclosure is largely pasture, however gorse is established on the southern slopes, where it is quite mature and sheep appear to be using it for shelter without causing damage to the ground surface. There are areas of localised erosion however, in particular around a small cluster of thorn trees which are established on the break of slope above the quarry ditch to the north of the site. Here there is a great deal of wear around the base of the trees, causing scars in the ground surface up to 0.4 m deep. In addition on the southwestern side of the monument adjacent to the hedgeline there is little ground cover and active wear from stock sheltering under the thin young trees which have grown up on the very steep slopes. Elsewhere there is erosion against the fenceline on the east side of the monument. Here again the stock shelter on the old hedgebank under trees which overhang from the adjacent enclosure. The hillfort has been opened to the public since 2000 and an interpretation panel has been erected on the southern side of the hillfort. There do not appear to be any problems caused by visitor numbers, although there is some wear in the ground surface around the interpretation panel.</p>					



Erosion of ground surface on the southwestern boundary of the hillfort



A ditch on the northern side of the monument looking east. The erosion around the base of the hawthorn trees is due to sheep using the trees for shelter.

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| 2 | PANT GWYN <u>(10735)</u> | Unknown enclosure | SN4673222803 U | Specific |
|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|

A circular cropmark enclosure identified from aerial photographs. Approximately 20 metres in diameter. The cropmark may be associated with an early medieval chapelry (PRN 49240) recorded in this area, but precise location is not known, however this cropmark, along with a couple of other sites, may represent its site. The site is located on a gentle northwest facing slope, just below the summit of a low hill. When the site was visited in May 2005 the field was under a silage crop, and no earthworks were observed.

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|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| ALLTYFYRDDIN;ALLT-Y-FYRDDYN-UCHAF <u>(53800)</u> | Post Medieval farmstead | SN4517921660 B | Generic |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

A farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time.

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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <u>(53801)</u> | Post Medieval quarry | SN4515621505 C | Generic |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|

This quarry has been in use until quite recently.

<u>(53807)</u>	Post Medieval ford	SN4456622712 C	Generic
A ford marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. An accompanying footbridge is marked to the north. This site was not seen during the farm visit.			
<u>(53808)</u>	Post Medieval enclosure	SN4685723183 D	Generic
A rectangular enclosure situated against the field boundary, marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. No longer marked on the 2nd edition map of 1906. There is no visible trace of this enclosure.			
<u>(53809)</u>	Post Medieval quarry	SN4678623295 C	Generic
Marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 as 'old quarry'. This site was not seen on the farm visit.			
<u>(53810)</u>	Post Medieval enclosure	SN4732123541 U	Generic
A roadside enclosure marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. No longer marked on the 2nd edition map of 1906. This site was not seen on the farm visit.			

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 MERLINS HILL;MERLINS GROVE (1745) SN45502150

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

The management aim for the hillfort is the establishment of a stable ground cover all over the monument and to reduce wear on those areas which have been highlighted. This can be achieved both by tackling specific problem areas and also reducing the pressure generally over the site.

It is therefore recommended that;

The group of hawthorn trees which line the quarry ditch scarp on the northern side of the monument should be cut off at ground level and the stumps treated to prevent regrowth. The scars should be monitored to note if ground cover is established naturally; it may be necessary to reseed. Cambria Archaeology should be notified if this is the case.

It would be beneficial to either reduce the numbers of stock on the site or perhaps to restrict grazing to those months which enjoy better weather in order to reduce the pressure on those areas required for shelter.

In addition the monument would benefit from the reduction of scrub growing below the northern fence; this would allow greater visibility of the northern ramparts. Again this should be carried out by cutting off the vegetation at ground level and spot treating the stumps to prevent regrowth. Vegetation should be removed from the site.

It is important that the condition of the site is monitored and problems addressed when they arise. Please contact Cambria Archaeology and Cadw to discuss any issues of concern.

Site 2 on MAP 1 PANT GWYN (10735) SN4673222803

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

Ideally there should be no further ground disturbance of this feature.

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
TALPEN-HAVARD <u>(23980)</u>	Post Medieval blacksmiths workshop	SN44602278	B	Generic
A blacksmiths workshop marked on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 and 1906 (Carms sheet 31.16). This site was not seen during the farm visit.				
ALLTYFYRDDIN;ALLT-Y-FYRDDYN-UCHAF <u>(53800)</u>	Post Medieval farmstead	SN4517921660	B	Generic
A farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The buildings marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 still survive within the farmstead, however the farmstead has been enlarged with large agricultural sheds erected to the west of the historic core.				

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)

6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

Location and Description:

A historic park or garden is a discrete area of land laid out in an ornamental way, originally for the pleasure and use of its owner. A sub-category of park is the deer park, laid out for management and containment of deer.

Historic parks of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.

The following parks and gardens have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
3	BRYN MYRDDIN; PENYBANC UCHAF (53191)	Post Medieval parkland	SN4470521279	B	Specific

Parkland associated with the mansion of Bryn Myrddin (formerly known as Penybanc Uchaf). On the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps (1889 & 1906) the fields around the mansion had designed woodland plantings, including individual specimens and clusters of trees enhancing the natural topography. A number of trees have been lost over time which has diminished the parkland setting of the mansion.



A view of the mansion of Bryn Myrddin and the parkland that surrounds it

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Maintain or restore the historic configuration and visual character of the historic garden or parkland.
- Ensure the long-term preservation of features associated with the historic garden or parkland.

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

Generic Management prescriptions

1. Original features identified in the agreement must be retained and maintained. Repairs (including repairs to walling and fences) should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
2. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
3. Drives and historic tracks together with associated walling, revetment and bridges identified in the agreement must be maintained and, where necessary, restored using appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option).
4. New tracks should not be created.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Park and Garden features:

The following individual features 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

**BRYN MYRDDIN; PENYBANC UCHAF
(53191)**

SN4470521279

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

It would be beneficial to undertake tree planting to reinstate some of those parkland trees which have been lost.

A scheme of tree planting should be drawn up using the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map for reference points.

The species of trees planted should reflect the species profile that is represented in the existing plantings.

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

Sources consulted:

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record

Ordnance Survey 1831 Old Series 1" map, No.XLI

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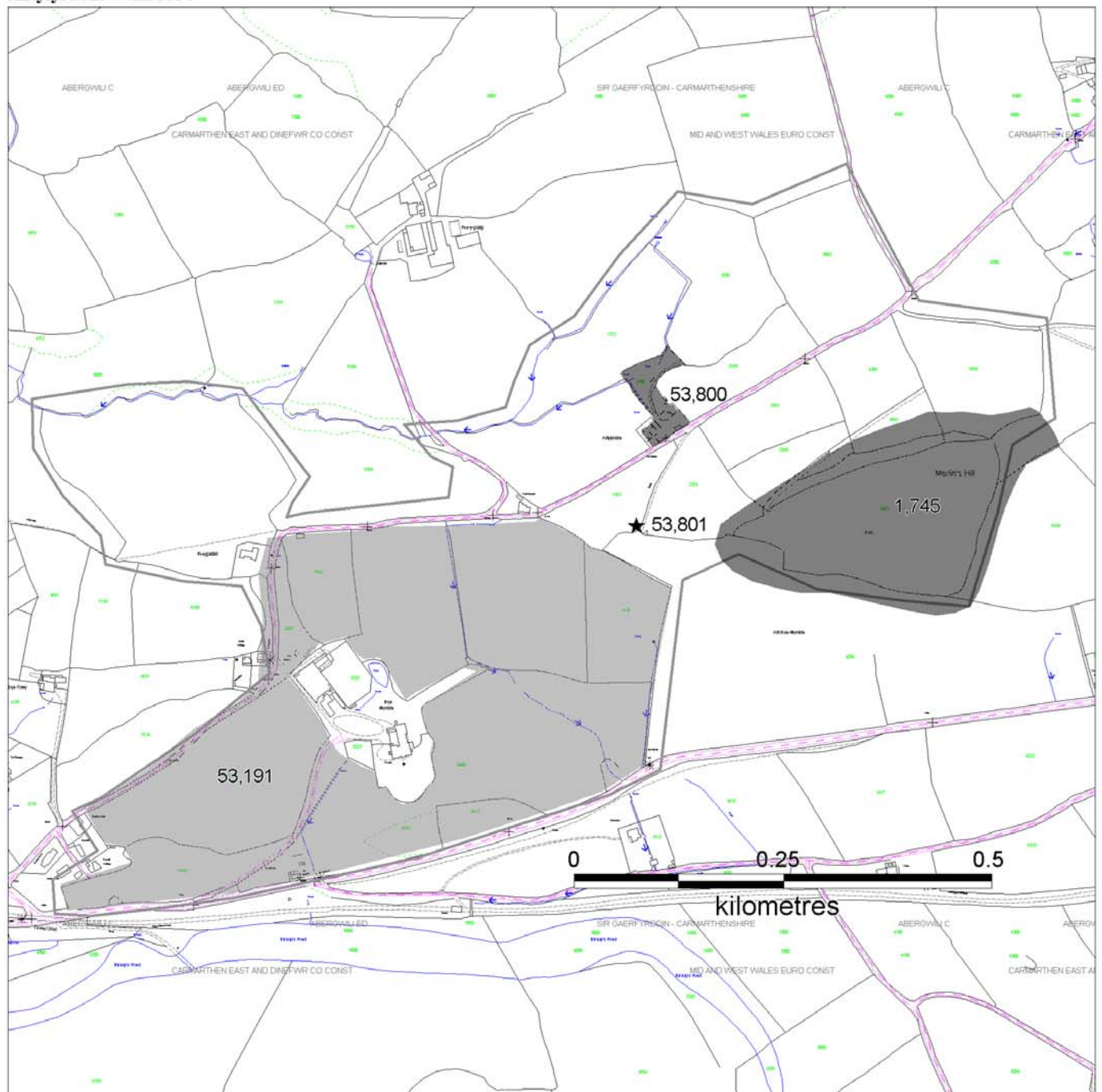
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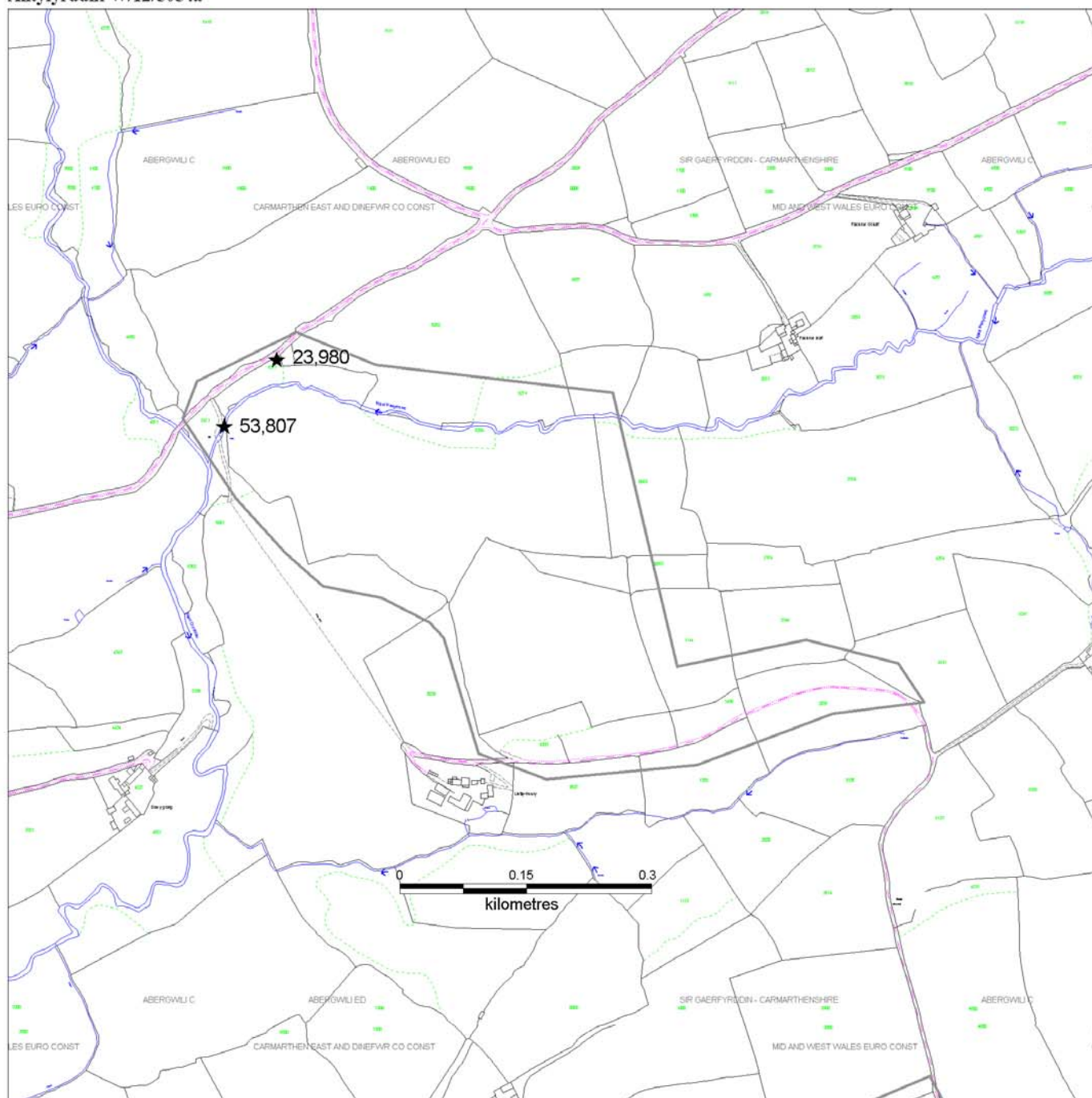
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- Farm Boundary
- Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)
- Archaeological Sites (by PRN)

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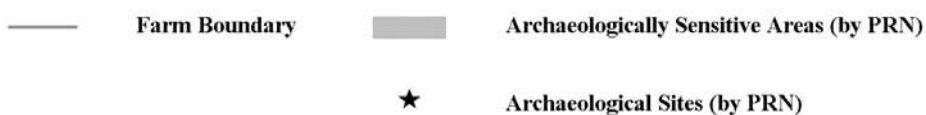
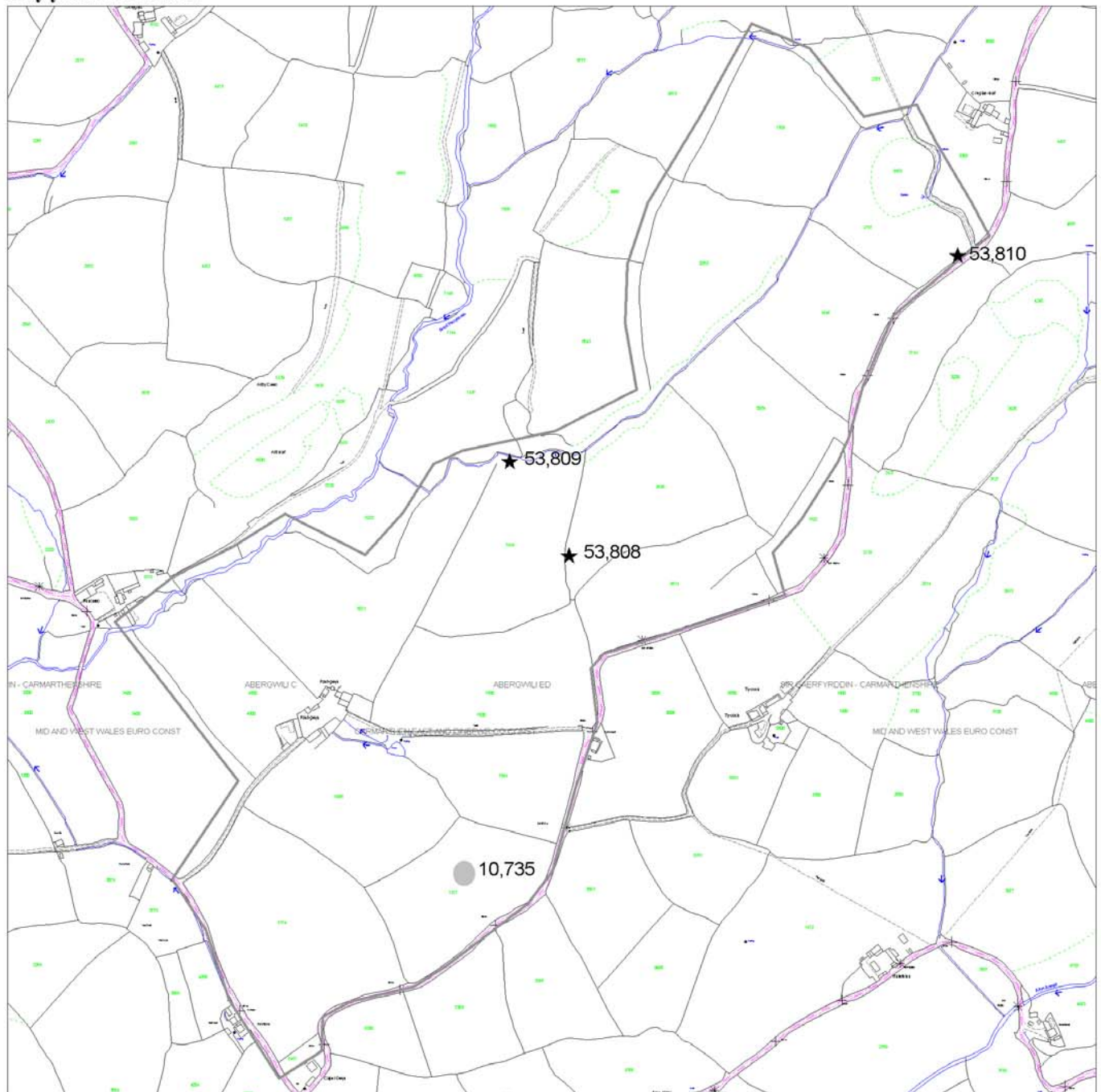
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- Farm Boundary
- Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)
- Archaeological Sites (by PRN)

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Altyfyrddin W/12/5054b



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