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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Cefn Meurig**



Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/4983

Prepared by
Will Steele

ACA Report No. **2005/59**
Project Record No. **53668**

Other documents enclosed:
**Historic Landscape Character Areas: 37 Pantyfedwen/Crofftau, 38 Cefn Meurig
& 41 Cwm Gwyddyl.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Cefn Meurig consists of two separate land holdings in Ystrad Fflur community, Ceredigion. The surrounding landscape is recognised as being of considerable landscape value and falls within the Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 2). This is a non-statutory, advisory designation which aims to provide information and raise awareness of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation. The area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project.

The home farm (W/11/4983) is centred on NGR SN72536795 and falls within the Cefn Meurig (38) and Cwm Gwyddyl (41) Historic Landscape Character Areas. This is an undulating landscape with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms set within an arrangement of irregular fields. The area was formerly part of Strata Florida Abbey's Mefenydd grange which was probably divided into farms and let on a commercial basis at the end of the medieval period. This settlement pattern may therefore have origins in the 15th or 16th centuries. The field pattern would seem to have evolved more gradually. Late eighteenth century estate maps show farmsteads typically surrounded by several small fields with a system of larger fields or open land beyond. Later maps (Gwnnws parish tithe map, OS 1st edition 1888) record an ongoing process of sub-division giving rise to the pattern of irregular small fields recognisable today.

Another land holding (W/11/4983a; NGR SN75536519) is situated some three kilometres to the southwest in the steep hills on the edge of the Cambrian Mountains. This holding falls within Pantyfedwen/ Crofftau Historic Landscape Character Area (37). Settlement is dispersed with systems of small fields with larger enclosures and small blocks of unenclosed land further out. This area formerly lay within the Pennardd Grange of Strata Florida Abbey and many of the farms may have origins in the medieval period. Historic maps demonstrate considerable change in the last two centuries and the majority of enclosures in this area were laid out post 1845, while the number of settlements has decreased.

Archaeological and Historic Content

Cefn Meurig contains a wide variety of archaeological sites, possibly spanning great time depth. A possible enclosed settlement (PRN 53922) identified from aerial photographs is situated at the eastern end of the home farm holding (W/11/4983). The site is hard to classify but other rectangular enclosures within the region have been assigned a prehistoric date.

There is also an enclosure (PRN 53923) on holding W/11/4983a. which lies within the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains. The site is recorded as being associated with an area of ridge and furrow cultivation some 100m to the north and outside the current farm boundary. Such remains of past settlement and land use recall a time before a population decline in the nineteenth century led to large scale abandonment in rural areas. Nearby is an unusual elongated earthwork feature (PRN 54281). Its origins are difficult to know but it is possible that it may be a sunken shelter used for the storage of perishable foodstuffs. An alternative explanation is that it may simply be the point where a hedge bank bisects an earlier boundary line.

Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

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
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1	CEFN MEURIG (53919)	Unknown enclosure	SN7250168012	U		Specific
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Enclosure complex alongside the eastern side of Cefn Meurig farmstead. Four rectangular enclosures abut a field boundary. Other linear features are present on this site which may be remnants of earlier field systems. The extent of the complex is undefined but earthwork banks are clearly visible in the south and west of the field behind the farmstead. At the time of the visit, this field was heavily poached by cattle with erosion to some the earthwork banks. Poaching is concentrated around a round feeder in the east of the area.



Looking south-west towards the enclosure complex and Cefn Meurig beyond.

(41060)	Unknown stone alignment	SN75346544	U		Generic
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Recorded as an unusual stone alignment, 5m long north east to south west by 1.3m wide, in a reverse "S" by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). This site appears to have been mislocated. No stone alignment was identified at this location and the landowner has no knowledge of any such feature.

CEFN MEURIG [\(53920\)](#) Post Medieval well SN7254067951 B

Generic

A well is identified at this location on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1888). The well is an enhanced natural spring, apparent as a shallow circular depression enhanced by boulders on the downslope side. Corrugated iron sheets now cover the well.



The well at Cefn Meurig.

[\(53921\)](#)

Post Medieval ford SN7281668522 C

Generic

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 marks an area of fords and stepping stones crossing the river at this point. Site not visited.

[\(53922\)](#)

Unknown enclosed settlement SN7309968281 B

Generic

A possible enclosed settlement recorded by the RCAHMW. Approx. 800 meters west of Ffair-Rhos and approx. 550 meters SE of Felin-Fach farmstead. The site is made up of a series of enclosures and other linear features. A circular enclosure is contained within, what appears from aerial photographs, to be a double ditched enclosure. Approx. 60m to the east of the enclosures there is another feature which may be the remains of a dwelling. Behind the site is a large bank which may be natural but suggests a possible defensive position for the site.

The site is much as described previously. It is situated within an area of rough pasture. No management threats were identified.

[\(53923\)](#)

**Unknown
enclosure**

SN7561065180 U

Generic

A ditched enclosure with an area of ridge and furrow some 100m to the north recorded by the RCAHMW. The site occupies the west facing slope of a low hill. The enclosure is ploughed down but still visible. No obvious traces of the ridge and furrow were observed within the Tir Gofal application area.



The enclosure is ploughed down but still visible.

[\(54280\)](#)

**Post Medieval
sheep crawl?**

SN75366516 B

Generic

There is a narrow stone culvert, approximately 0.8m wide with large cap stones in a field bank some 200m northwest of Pantyfedwen farmstead. A drainage function is considered unlikely and the feature may have served as a sheep crawl.



The stone culvert could have served as a sheep crawl.

[\(54281\)](#)

**Post Medieval
earthwork**

SN75346514 B

Generic

An unusual earthwork feature on sloping ground along a field boundary to the west of Pantyfedwen farmstead. It consists of an elongated flat bottomed depression some 18m by 0.5 by 3m defined by large earth and stone banks. Possible interpretations might include a sunken shelter for the storage of perishable foodstuffs or the point where a hedge bank bisects an earlier boundary line.



The earthwork is built into a shallow slope.

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

CEFN MEURIG [\(53919\)](#)

SN7250168012

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

The earthwork banks should be protected from damage. The management aim is to encourage a stable grass cover over the site without poaching or causing erosion.

The following is recommended:

- Stop supplementary feeding within the area of the earthworks. Consider re-siting the feeder away from the enclosures. eg. in the north-east part of the same field.

The following should be considered:

- Reduce stocking levels in this field.

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
CEFN MEURIG (53918)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7253667952	B		Generic

A working farmstead complex on sloping ground above the Afon Meurig. The farmhouse, outbuildings and a barn are positioned in a line opposite a small outbuilding. Modern agricultural buildings are situated to the north. Map evidence (OS 1888, 1905) suggests a 19th or early 20th century date for traditional buildings at Cefn Meurig. Traditional buildings have experienced some modifications but the farmstead retains many original elements.



The barn and outbuildings at Cefn Meurig.

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:

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

- 02/06/2005 (16:34:28) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology
Project record number 53668.
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This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Cadw/ ICOMOS 1998 Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, Cadw:
Welsh Historic Monuments

Murphy, K. Upland Cerdeigion Historic Landscape Characterisation. ACA Reports

Ordnance Survey Old Series Map 1834 Sheet no 57, 1"

Ordnance Survey 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 16.11, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 16.11, 25"

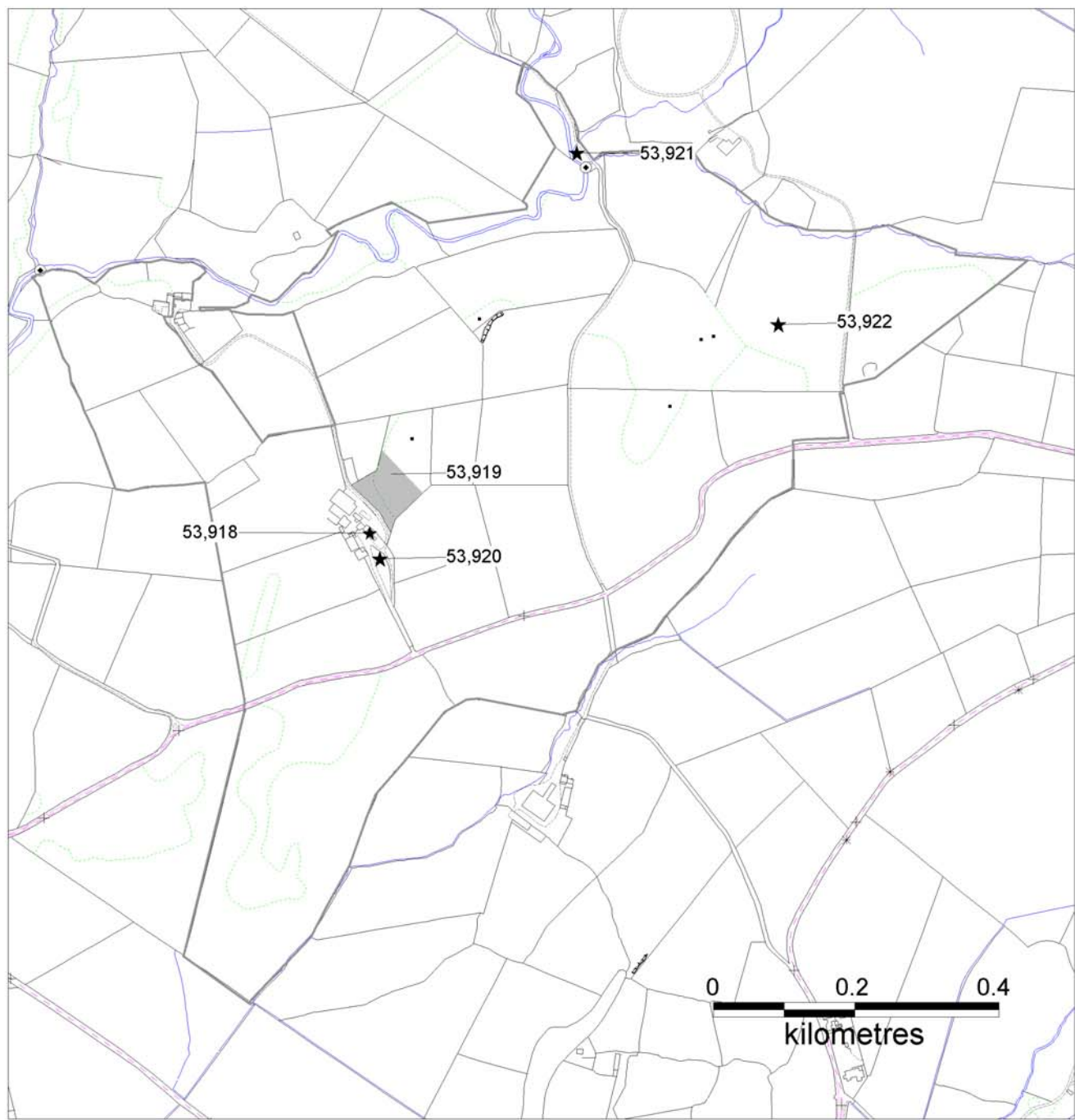
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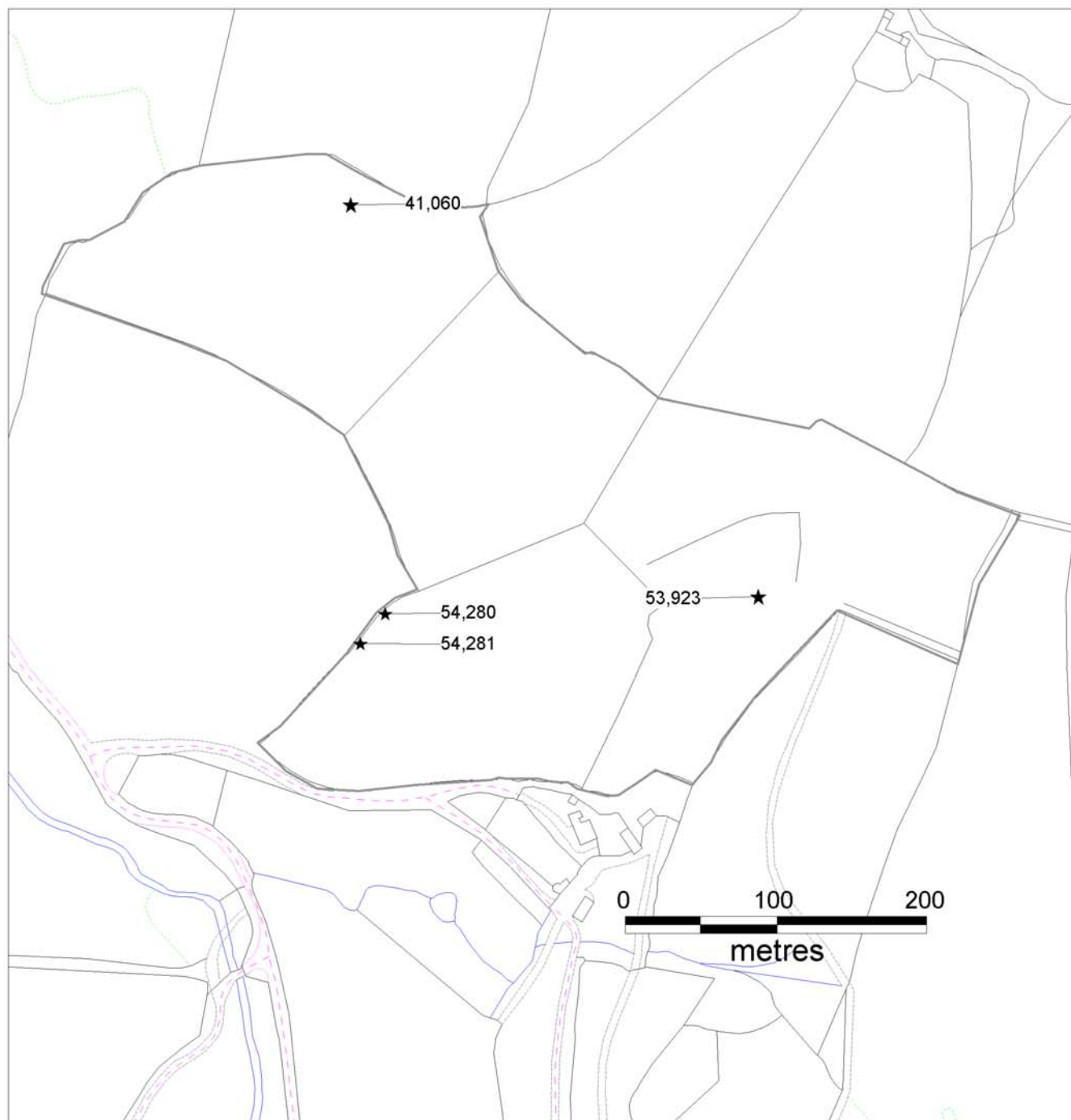
Cefn Meurig W/11/4983



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|---|-------------------------------|---|---|
| — | Farm Boundary | ■ | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) |
| ★ | Archaeological Sites (by PRN) | | |

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Cefn Meurig W/11/4983a



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