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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



**Prepared for:
Mynydd Melin
Tir Gofal Reference No
W/13/5483**

**ACA Report No. 2005/102
Project Record No. 53694
Prepared by
Philip Poucher**

**Other documents enclosed:
Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS, 1998. Register of
Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales. Pembrokeshire Historic
Landscape Characterisation. Historic Landscape Character Area 364 Mynydd
Melyn.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This farmstead lies in an upland area to the south of Dinas Cross, stretching between the hilltop of Mynydd Melyn and the banks of the Afon Gwaun to the south. The hilltop area at the northern end of the holding lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area 364 Mynydd Melyn. 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 consists of medium sized irregular fields with an area of woodland along the steep valley slopes of Afon Gwaun, and larger more open fields of rougher ground on Mynydd Melyn to the north. The settlement pattern consists of dispersed farmsteads and cottages. The irregular nature of the field enclosures suggests a gradual enclosure of farmland over a relatively long period of time, possibly beginning during the Medieval period. The smaller fields are probably earlier than the large enclosures on Mynydd Melyn, but these were apparently in place by the time they were recorded on the tithe maps of the mid 19th century. The field pattern is shown in its current form on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, some internal field boundaries have been abandoned during the 20th century but the general pattern has remained unchanged. The farmstead of Mynydd Melin is also marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 but is likely to have been well established by that time, first mentioned in 1591 as the home of Thomas Bateman.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

A Bronze Age ring barrow (PRN 1446) is recorded on Mynydd Melyn within this holding, and further Bronze Age archaeology on the hill indicates further Prehistoric activity is possible in this area. Initial results of the SPACES project indicate the presence of a standing stone, clearance cairns and a possible stone cist on the north summit of Mynydd Melyn, but their exact location is not known. Several stones (PRNs 54329, 54330, 54333, & 54336) recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 may also be further indications of Bronze Age activity, although similar stones (PRNs 21452, 21453, 21454 & 54335) have been recorded as Post Medieval rubbing stones or natural boulders (PRN 54334). Field systems and hillfort remains on Mynydd Melyn also show continued activity into the Iron Age. One possible hillfort (PRN 12653) has also been recorded by the RCAHMW within the bounds of this farm holding, although difficult to identify on the ground. It is unclear when this period of activity came to an end, but Early Medieval activity is recorded on the borders of the farm holding at the southern end. Inscribed stones of the 7th-9th and 9th-11th centuries have been recorded at St Davids church, which is itself a Medieval church. To the north near the edge of the holding pillow mounds and an enclosure indicates Medieval agricultural activity that may have extended within the holding. As mentioned above some of the field boundaries may have been established during the

Medieval period, and Mynydd Melin farmstead (PRN 54327) may also have Medieval origins, first mentioned in 1591. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 also marks another farmsteads (PRN 54332) and cottage (PRN 54326) within the farm holding, both of which have since been abandoned. A gravel pit (PRN 18552) and small quarry (PRN 54338) also recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows small scale industrial activity within the holding.

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority for this farm is the upkeep and repair of traditional farm buildings, using techniques and materials appropriate to the farmstead complex and local area. The preservation of abandoned and ruined farm buildings elsewhere on the holding is also important, as is the preservation of any standing/rubbing stones and historic field boundaries.

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
2	BLAEN-WAEN (54327)	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN0135235925	B	Specific

A deserted small farmstead complex, the buildings are still standing but ruinous. The site consists of a mortared rubble built farmhouse, originally 2-storey high with a slate roof. A small barn range is attached to the northern end of the farmhouse, including 3 concrete cattle stalls. Opposite this range stands a detached mortared rubble built barn range. The internal floor and roof of the farmhouse have gone, the interior is rubble filled with a tree growing in the southern end and vegetation covering the rear wall. The attached barn range is greatly ruined. The detached barn range is also greatly ruined and vegetation filled, only the gable and rear walls stand close to their original height. The farmstead complex is not marked on either the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1819 or the tithe map of c1841, suggesting it was built in the mid to late 19th century as it first appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. *Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)*



SW facing shot of the main farmhouse and attached barn range of the deserted farmstead complex PRN 54327.



SE facing shot of the detached barn range at deserted farmstead complex PRN 54327.

GLYN GATH (1446) **Bronze Age/ Ring barrow** **SN0167536632 A SAM** **Generic**

Ring barrow on open moorland. The barrow is about 20m in diameter. There has been recent disturbance, as scrambler bikes have been crossing the ring cairn as part of an unofficial track. Where the ruts cut into the barrow surface, it can be seen that the structure is of mixed stone and earth. Patches of stone are exposed in the badly affected area. A quick measured plan was produced, which highlights that there has been some slumping of the bank on the east side. The west side is very well preserved, with no evidence for disturbance. There is also erosion damage to the surrounding moorland. This does not at present appear to be causing damage to any archaeology. A Cadw management plan is in operation on this site, running until 2009. The site also lies on common land. *Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)*

MYNYDD MELYN (12653) **Unknown/ Enclosure** **SN021355 U** **Generic**

An enclosure recorded from aerial photography. Described by the RCAHMW as discontinuous earthwork features appearing to represent an oval embanked enclosure, in the region of 90m north-north-west to south-south-east by 60m, set on ground falling to the south-south-west. The RCAHMW suggested the site may represent an Iron Age defended enclosure. The site was visited during a farm survey (09/09/05) but no trace of the site was visible above the ground, lying in the corner of a field of improved pasture. *Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)*

(18552) **Post Med;Modern/ Gravel pit** **SN02153598 C** **Generic**

A gravel pit/stone quarry first marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907. The pit is oval in plan, measuring approximately 25m by 20m, ringed by quarried stone and grass covered in the centre. *Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)*

MYNYDD-MELYN I (21452) **Post Med/ Rubbing stone** **SN01383465 C** **Generic**

A 'stone' marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, identified as a rubbing stone during a site visit in 1985. The feature was not immediately visible during a site visit in 2005, although the area was not examined closely. It lies in a field of improved pasture. *Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)*

MYNYDD-MELYN II (21453) **Post Med/ Rubbing stone** **SN01543484 B** **Generic**

A 'stone' marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Visible as a deliberately placed upright stone near the centre of the field, measuring c0.9m x c0.5m and 1.3m high. Identified as an animal rubbing stone. *Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)*

MYNYDD-MELYN III
(21454)

Post Med/ Rubbing SN01673480 B
stone

Generic

A 'stone' marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Visible as a deliberately placed upright stone near the centre of the field, measuring c0.9m x c0.3m and 1.4m high. Identified as an animal rubbing stone. *Visited* 09/09/2005 (PP)



E facing shot of rubbing stone PRN 21454.

(54325)

**Unknown/
Enclosure**

SN0172036370 U

Generic

An enclosure recorded by the RCAHMW. Described as an apparent circular structure, in the region of 8.0-10m across, defined by tumbled stone walling, set on ground falling to the west. No such feature was discovered during a farm visit (09/09/05), although the site does lie in an area of thick heather. *Visited* 09/09/2005 (PP)

TY NEWYDD (54326)

Post Med/ Cottage SN0186836049 B

Generic

A small cottage site marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, although possibly already abandoned by that time. Low banks of tumbled stone define the main dwelling, a 2 cell structure aligned NE-SW, measuring c10m by 4m with opposing entrances in the largest (northernmost) cell. Stone and earth banks define enclosures on both east and west sides of the main dwelling. A platform measuring c11m by 4m is cut into the hillside immediately north of the main dwelling. The site appears in a fairly stable condition, covered in grass with areas of heather around the northern platform. *Visited* 09/09/2005 (PP)



Looking S over the earthwork remains of cottage site PRN 54326. The upper platform lies in the foreground, with the earth and stone banks of the cottage and surrounding enclosures beyond.

<u>(54329)</u>	Unknown/ Stone	SN0179135268 U	Generic
One of a series of 'stones' marked in this area on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Provenance unknown, although animal rubbing stones have been recorded in this area. No trace of this stone remains in its original location lying in an arable field, although some large stones, abundant in this area, have been piled along the field boundaries. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
<u>(54330)</u>	Unknown/ Stone	SN0129435392 U	Generic
One of a series of 'stones' marked in this area on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Provenance unknown, although animal rubbing stones have been recorded in this area. No stone was located in the position marked on the 1 st edition map, although a large natural outcrop of stone lies nearby. The site lies in a field of improved pasture. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
MYNYDD-MELYN <u>(54332)</u>	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN0151435123 B	Generic
A working farmstead complex lying in the Cwm Gwaun valley below Mynydd Melyn. The first record of a dwelling here comes from 1591 when Thomas Bateman is recorded as the owner although the current farmstead appears to be made up of a mixture of 19 th and 20 th century buildings. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. A stream flows through the farmyard, emerging from a stone built structure at the northern end and running under a culvert for much of its length. Traditional farm buildings also survive within the farmstead, described in section ii. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
<u>(54333)</u>	Unknown/ Stone	SN0170635131 C	Generic
One of a series of 'stones' marked in this area on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Provenance unknown, although animal rubbing stones have been recorded in this area. A large recumbent stone c3m long lies in the field boundary close to this location, although it is unclear if this stone is the one marked on the 1889 map. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
<u>(54334)</u>	Unknown/ Stone	SN0164634916 C	Generic
One of a series of 'stones' marked in this area on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Provenance unknown, although animal rubbing stones have been recorded in this area. A recumbent stone lies at this location, measuring c1m by 1.2m and 0.7m thick. The stone appears to be an unworked natural boulder. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
<u>(54335)</u>	Unknown/ Rubbing stone	SN0147634968 B	Generic
One of a series of 'stones' marked in this area on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The stone appears to be a small, possibly broken, animal rubbing stone lying near the northern end of a pasture field. The stone measured c0.5m by 0.7m and 0.5m high. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
<u>(54336)</u>	Unknown/ Stone	SN0134735069 U	Generic
One of a series of 'stones' marked in this area on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Provenance unknown, although animal rubbing stones have been recorded in this area. No individual stone is visible at the location indicated on the 1 st edition map, although large stones have been used in nearby field banks or cleared to the field edge. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			
<u>(54338)</u>	Post Med/ Quarry	SN0142434304 C	Generic
A small quarry marked on the 1 st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889, no longer marked on the 2 nd edition map of 1907. The site consists of a vegetation covered quarry cut into the hillside on a level with the roadside. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i>			

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 2 on MAP 1

BLAEN-WAEN (54327)

SN0135235925

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

The aim of the management for this site should be to preserve and stabilise surviving building remains. Many walls stand to nearly their full height and the plan of this small farmstead complex is still clearly visible. However, many of the remains are vegetation covered, with thick vegetation growing on the rear of the main farmhouse building, two trees growing close to its southern gable wall and a tree growing internally, which could be destabilising the remains and causing damage.

- The tree growing within the farmhouse should be carefully cut back and treated and dead material removed. Tree branches growing against the southern gable wall may also need to be cut back in future.
- Thick vegetation covering some of the building walls should be carefully cut back to reveal the wall structure beneath, to assess any potential damage the vegetation growth may be causing to the structure. The vegetation should only be completely removed if this can be done without causing further damage to the structure.

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
1	MYNYDD-MELYN <u>(54332)</u>	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN0151435123	B		Specific
<p>A working farmstead complex lying in the Cwm Gwaun valley below Mynydd Melyn. The first record of a dwelling here comes from 1591 when Thomas Bateman is recorded as the owner although the current farmstead appears to be made up of a mixture of 19th and 20th century buildings. The traditional farm buildings consist of a range of farm buildings to the south of the farmhouse with a longer range of farm buildings on the opposite side of the farmyard to the west, modern farm buildings lie beyond. Another traditional farm building lies to the east of the farmhouse, flanked by more modern lean-to's. These buildings are built of mortared rubble, in places roughly coursed and limewashed internally with brick quoins and lintels, although some lintels are of slightly different brick and styles. Roof coverings are mixed, originally slate and patched in places with corrugated iron, many roofs have been replaced with a mixture of more modern materials. The individual barn building to the east is built in the same style with a slate roof, but also with several tiers of nesting boxes in the gable wall. These traditional buildings are all marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 and also appear to be marked on the tithe map of c1841. A stream flows through the farmyard, emerging from at stone built structure at the northern end and running under a culvert for much of its length. The buildings remain in use and in relatively stable conditions although the slate and corrugated iron roofing is deteriorating in places. <i>Visited 09/09/2005 (PP)</i></p>						



SE facing shot of the southern barn range, also showing the varying roofing materials. Slate with corrugated iron patching remains on the central barn, although in a deteriorating state.



SSW facing shot of individual traditional farm building to the east of the farmhouse.

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 1 on MAP 1

MYNYDD-MELYN (54332)

SN0151435123

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

The aim of the management for this site should be to ensure the survival of the traditional buildings and maintain the historic character of the complex of farm buildings as a whole. The farmstead buildings are still in use and generally in a good state of repair, although some of the slate roofs, patched with corrugated iron in places, are noticeably deteriorating and weather damaged. Many of these traditional roofs have been replaced over the years with a variety of more modern materials.

- Deteriorating roof coverings, both damaged traditional roof coverings and more modern replacements, should be replaced with traditional materials appropriate to the farmstead and its locality (slate and corrugated iron).

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

PP - 15/09/2005 (10:00:38) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology Project record number 53694.

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

Sources consulted:

Cadw, Countryside Council for Wales and ICOMOS, 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest In Wales. Pembrokeshire Historic Landscape Characterisation.

Historic Landscape Character Area 364 Mynydd Melyn

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites and Monuments Record

Francis Jones. 1996. Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and Their Families

Ordnance Survey 1819 Old Series 1" map, No.XL

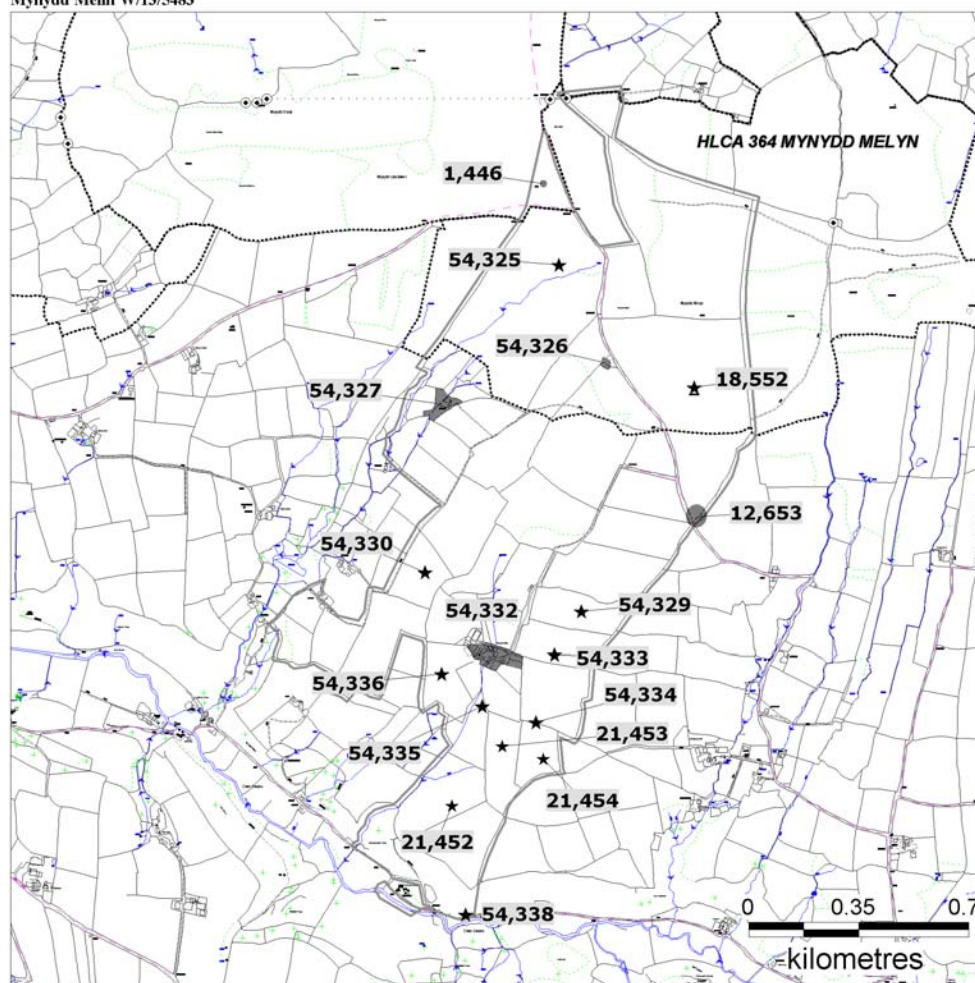
Ordnance Survey 1889 1st edition 1-2500 Pembrokeshire.X.2 & 6

Ordnance Survey 1907 2nd edition 1-2500 Pembrokeshire.X.2 & 6

RCAHMW. Coflein Online Database

Tithe Map c1841 Llanychlwydog Parish

Mynydd Melin W/13/5483



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

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HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: **364 MYNYDD MELYN**

GRID REFERENCE: SN 021367

AREA IN HECTARES: 240

Historic Background

A medium-sized area of modern Pembrokeshire, comprising the upland moorlands of Mynydd Melyn and Cnwc-y-gwartheg. It lies within the medieval *Cantref* Cemaes. Cemaes was brought under Anglo-Norman control in c.1100 by the Fitzmartins who retained it, as the Barony of Cemaes, until 1326, when they were succeeded by the Audleys. The Barony was coterminous with the later Hundred of Cemais, which was created in 1536, but many feudal rights and obligations persisted, some until as late as 1922. This character area is a typical Welsh upland landscape in that it contains extensive evidence for prehistoric occupation, mainly ritual and funerary monuments but also occupation sites such as hut groups and field systems. By the medieval period Mynydd Melyn and Mynydd Carningli to the east probably formed a single block of open moorland. Mynydd Carningli, including at least part of Mynydd Melyn, was held directly by the Lords of Cemaes, but in 1278 Nicholas Fitzmartin issued a charter granting the burgesses right of common grazing over 'all my land wet and dry, moors and turbaries' on Mynydd Carningli. The charter defined a large area including that lying to the west of Mynydd Melyn and north of the arable holding of Nantmarchan, which represented one knight's fee. This lay along Cwm-mawr to the south of Mynydd Melyn. The west half of this area was divided between Dinas and Llanychlwyddog parishes, the division between them may be an ancient boundary. That part of Mynydd Melyn in Llanychlwyddog parish, also appears to have been unenclosed land but belonged to a larger holding, also called Mynydd Melyn, of mixed land running down the slope to the south of this area. It represented one knight's fee held of the Barony, with its centre at the farm of the same name lower down the slope, and is recorded in the *Extent of Cemaes* of 1594. It would seem therefore that in the medieval period Mynydd Melyn was a mixture of open common and unenclosed land held by individual farms. However, right of common appears to have extended over the whole of the area during the post-medieval period as an estate map of 1758 names part of the area as 'sheepwalk' belonging to several farms on the lower, northern slopes, although it is unclear whether this ground had a perimeter fence or was unenclosed. However, by the tithe survey of c. 1840s the higher levels (which lie in this historic landscape character area) had been divided into large fields, in a pattern similar to that of today, and farms and fields had been established over the lower slopes in what is now a neighbouring area. Very little seems to have altered in this area since the tithe survey.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This is an upland historic landscape character area that achieves a height of 307m on the rounded peak of Mynydd Melyn. There are no buildings in this landscape. It has an open aspect, but it is not open moorland, and is divided into very large enclosures. Older boundaries consist of stone-faced banks and dry-stone walls. These are now largely redundant, and wire fences, many of which run along the older boundaries, form stock-proof barriers. It is treeless. Land-use is a mixture of improved pasture and rough, heather grazing. Archaeological sites are an important historic landscape component of the area, particularly prehistoric sites, including: hut circles, a round barrow, a standing stone, clearance cairns and field systems. Other sites include a medieval pilgrims cross.

Mynydd Melyn is a distinct historic landscape character area, yet its boundaries cannot be defined with great precision. There tends to be a gradual merging of this area with the rougher fields of the neighbouring areas.

Conservation priorities

It is important that the open aspect of this area is maintained.

Sources: Dinas Parish tithe map 1841; Howells 1977; Llanlawer Parish tithe map 1843; Llanychlwyddog Parish tithe map 1844; National Library of Wales Llwyngwair Map 8 (1758); Miles 1995; Newport Parish tithe map 1844