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**TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN:
HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
(Call Out)**

Prepared for:

Derwen



**Tir Gofal Reference No:
W/11/5460**

Project Record Number: 54206

**Prepared by
Ken Murphy**

CALL OUT VISIT

A farm visit was undertaken at the request of the Countryside Council for Wales to address specific management issues on this farm. The aim of this report is to make an assessment of these issues in order to provide management recommendations to be incorporated into the Tir Gofal Management Plan. This report is not intended to assess the structural condition or stability of any given site.

The Call Out Report responds to management concerns regarding specific sites, it does not provide management advice for all known sites on the farm, for these recommendations please refer to the Historic Environment Report 1 (HE1).

A site visit was made to Castell (PRN 2057) situated at SN 72707761 in the community of Pontarfynach in Ceredigion, on 11 November 2005 by Ken Murphy.

DESCRIPTION

Castell is a prominent rocky hill rising to a little over 300m. On the northern side land falls steeply away by over 150m to the floor of the Rheidol valley. On other sides the land falls away by between 30m and 50m on to a high undulating plateau. There are wide ranging views from the top of the hill, in all directions, but particularly down the Rheidol valley to the west.

The hill rises steeply from the surrounding land in a series of rocky steps and terraces. The hill is essentially a short ridge, with its long axis trending north - south. On the south side the slopes are cloaked in gorse and bracken, with similar but less dense growth on the north side. The east and west flanks and summit are under rough pasture with occasional bracken pockets.



The ridge summit has been artificially fashioned into a mound. Immediately on the south side of the summit a rock-cut ditch 5m wide, 3m deep and approximately 15m long runs across the ridge. A similar sized but less well-defined ditch runs across the ridge to the north side of the summit. Together these ditches define a roughly circular summit mound, flat-topped and approximately 15m across. Surface evidence suggests that this mound is made up of bedrock, rather than constructed from material up-cast from the ditches. Immediately to the south of the summit what seems to be a natural shelf formed by rocky outcrops may have been a component of this site, but this is not certain.



INTERPRETATION

It is a difficult site to interpret, but the shape and form of the summit mound indicate a medieval motte - a small castle perhaps dating to the 12th or 13th century. The natural shelf to the south of the motte may have acted as a small bailey. No known documentary evidence survives to confirm this interpretation, and it is therefore unknown whether this is Welsh castle or an Anglo-Norman castle.

CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The scrub growth on the flanks of Castell are not affecting the archaeological monument on the summit. However, dense gorse on the south side hinders access and it would be desirable to undertake limited clearance here if freer access to the summit monument is required.

Derwen
W/11/5460

Project Record No. 54206
Report No.

This report has been prepared by Ken Murphy
Position: Principal Archaeologist - Field Services

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Gwilym Hughes on
behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.
Position: Director

Signature Date.....

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome
any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this
report