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## **TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)**

**Prepared for:  
Pencwm**

**Tir Gofal Reference No  
W/11/5498**

**ACA Report No. 2005/124  
Project Record No. 54212**

**Prepared by  
Philip Poucher**

**Other documents enclosed:**

**Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape  
Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.  
Historic Landscape Character Areas 53 Bwlchcrwys, 65 Pen-Rhiw-Newydd, 71  
Disgwylfa, 72 Nant-y-Moch, 76 Bryngwyn, 77  
Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, 86 Hen Gaer & 100 Penrhyn-coch and Pen-bont  
Rhydybeddau.**

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# **A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

## **2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

### ***HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER***

This farm consists of seven holdings all lying within the Upland Ceredigion Area of Outstanding Historic Interest. Holdings W/11/5498 and W/11/5498/d lie adjoining each other to the north of Penrhyn-coch, W/11/5498/a-c, lie to the east around Salem in the Stewi valley. W/11/5498/e lies c6km to the east on Disgwylfa Fawr overlooking Afon Rheidol. Holding W/11/5498/f lies several kilometres to the south near the small settlement of Pisgah. All the holdings lie within Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs), 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.

Holdings W/11/5498 and W/11/5498/d lie within HLCAs 76 Bryngwyn, 86 Hen Gaer & 100 Penrhyn-coch and Pen-bont Rhydybeddau. The enclosure pattern in this area is mixed, consisting mainly of medium sized regular fields but with more irregular fields to the east and south. The settlement pattern consists of dispersed farmsteads around the nucleated settlement of Penrhyn-coch. During the Medieval period much of this area formed part of a Grange of Strata Florida Abbey, with its administrative centre at Cwrt. The enclosure pattern around Cwrt is likely to have late Medieval origins although the more regular fields that cover much of the remainder of the holding are characteristic of later Post Medieval enclosure. Much of the current pattern was in place by the time it was recorded on late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century estate maps. By the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century Pencwm farmstead and two cottages had also been established within the holding. The settlement of Penrhyn-coch expanded into this area during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Holdings W/11/5498/a-c also lie within HLCA 100 as well as HLCA 65 Pen-Rhiw-Newydd. The enclosure pattern in this area consists of medium to large regular enclosures with a settlement pattern of small nucleated settlements, lying outside these farm holdings. Some of the field boundaries to the northwest (within HLCA 100) may have late Medieval origins but this area was generally unenclosed land until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the boundaries within W/11/5498/a & W/11/5498/c had been established by the time of the tithe map of 1847, although there has been some boundary adjustment and abandonment along the valley bottom during the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Enclosure within W/11/5498/b was established in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The surrounding small nucleated settlements are mainly late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century settlements attracted to the area by metal mining.

Holding W/11/5498/e lies within HLCAs 71 Disgwylfa & 72 Nant-y-Moch. This holding is mostly unenclosed upland with medium to large irregular enclosures on the lower valley slopes at the southern end. The settlement pattern consists of dispersed farmsteads. This area is likely to have been unenclosed land for much of its history. Late 18<sup>th</sup> century estate maps shows the lower valley slopes had been enclosed by that date, current boundaries are shown on the 1847 tithe map with little change since.

Recorded deserted rural settlements indicate a period of settlement possibly in the medieval or earlier Post Medieval period, this had been replaced by the current settlement pattern by the time of the tithe map.

Holding W/11/5498/f lies within HLCA 53 Bwlchcrwys and 77 Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn. The enclosure pattern in this area consists of medium sized irregular fields with a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads. The majority of the holding (within HLCA 53) appears to have been unenclosed land until the later Post Medieval period, enclosed in its current layout by the time of the tithe maps of the 1840s. The southern end of the holding (within HLCA 77) may have been enclosed earlier, during the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The farmstead of Tynfrondel was also in place by the time of the tithe map.

### ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT***

Prehistoric activity has been recorded in the area around holdings W/11/5498 & W/11/5498/d. Bronze Age round barrows and Iron Age defended enclosures lie on the hilltops to the west but no Prehistoric archaeology has yet been recorded within the holdings. The suggested route of a Roman road (PRN 5222) runs through these holdings. Although the Roman origins of this route may be doubtful it does appear to be an old routeway, possibly in use from the Medieval period. During the Medieval period this area was part of the Y Dywarchen Grange of Strata Florida Abbey, with its administrative centre at Cwrt, which became the centre of a small estate following the Dissolution. The full extent and layout of settlement at Cwrt during this period is unclear, but mention is made of an ancient barn and water mill, and gallows on the hill above. The remains of these features may lie within W/11/5498/d although there are no longer any above ground remains. Nearby Pencwm farmstead (PRN 55033) is first marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century two cottages (PRNs 55031 & 55032) were also established within the holding.

The presence of Iron Age hillforts also suggests Prehistoric settlement and activity in the area around W/11/5498/a-c, and the discovery of a collection of Roman coins also suggests activity during the Roman period. However, no definite Prehistoric or Roman features have been recorded within the bounds of these holdings, although an enclosure (PRN 55029) within W/11/5498/c is of unknown date and function. Building platforms (PRN 55027) within W/11/5498/a appear to represent settlement during the later Medieval or early Post Medieval period. Another platform (PRN 55283) within W/11/5498/c is the remains of farm buildings shown on the tithe map of 1846. Settlement expanded in this area during the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a result of metal mining, and the remains of mine shafts (PRNs 25978 & 55282) are recorded within these holdings.

A large collection of Bronze Age round barrows and standing stones have been recorded in the area around W/11/5498/e, indicating an area of relatively intense funerary and ritual activity but as yet no Bronze Age archaeology has been recorded within this holding. Later Iron Age settlement sites have also been recorded just outside the limits of this holding. Deserted rural settlements have been recorded within this holding, possibly dating from the Medieval or earlier Post Medieval period. One settlement (PRN 32876) lies on the banks of Nant Clychau, consisting of a possible long hut (PRN 32869), boundary banks (PRNs 32870, 32872 & 32875) and

trackways (PRN 32870, 32873, 32874 & 32881). Another settlement lies to the north, with one long hut (PRN 32918) lying within this holding. By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887/8 the only settlement marked within the holding was a possible cottage (PRN 55269). Several Post Medieval sheepfolds (PRNs 32871, 55267 & 55270) are also recorded.

The recorded archaeology within W/11/5498/f consists of the farmstead of Tynfrondel, recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888.

### ***KEY OBJECTIVE***

The management priority for this farm is the preservation and maintenance of traditional farm buildings within Pencwm farmstead, using materials and techniques appropriate to the locality. The preservation of old settlement sites in the various holdings is also a priority, such as building platforms within W/11/5498/a & c and deserted rural settlements within W/11/5498/e.

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## **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.

<b>Name (&amp; PRN)</b>	<b>Period/Site type</b>	<b>NGR</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>SAM/listing</b>	<b>Management required</b>
<b>SARN HELEN (N);SARN ELEN (N) (5222)</b>	<b>Roman/ Road</b>	<b>SN6540</b>	<b>U</b>		<b>Generic</b>
The suggested route of a Roman road from Pennal to Llanio, also referred to as Sarn Helen. From Llanio, the route of the road is reasonably certain to have followed the same course as the modern B4578 heading north as far as SN65426817, from this point to the fort at Trawscoed the route is uncertain. A cropmark plotted at SN66527224 (PRN 34113) suggests that neither of the suggested routes are particularly convincing. The suggested route north of Trawscoed is also conjectural and looks unlikely considering the Roman road cropmarks that have been plotted at SN64487725. The section that runs through this farm holding also appears unlikely, choosing an uncharacteristically sinuous route, although its association with Cwrt farmstead (PRN 55030) does suggest this is still a route of longstanding. <i>Visited 21/10/2005 (PP)</i>					
<b>BROGYNIN (25978)</b>	<b>Post Med/ Metal mine</b>	<b>SN663845</b>	<b>B</b>		<b>Generic</b>
A small late 19 <sup>th</sup> century mine shaft. Marked on the 1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 as 'Trial Shaft', presumably a short lived mine prospecting for lead deposits in this area. The small shaft is now filled in with trees growing within it, lying on the southern edge of a former trackway to Brogynin Fawr to the west. <i>Visited 21/10/2005 (PP)</i>					
<b>LLUEST NANT Y CLEHIR (32869)</b>	<b>Post Med?/ Long hut?</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>U</b>		<b>Generic</b>
A small rectangular platform measuring 5.30m x 3.50m with slight traces of a cross partition. The remains of a small rectangular structure measuring 4m x 5m lies within it. Rather small for a dwelling, possibly representing an ancillary building.					
<b>LLUEST NANT Y CLEHIR (32870)</b>	<b>Post Med?/ Boundary bank</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>C</b>		<b>Generic</b>
Linear enclosure bank running NW/SE for over 100m, parallel to the ridge's north slope. Situated approximately 20m to the NE from possible dwelling PRN32869.					
<b>LLUEST NANT Y CLEHIR (32871)</b>	<b>Post Med?/ Sheep fold?</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>U</b>		<b>Generic</b>

L-shaped earth and stone enclosure wall, 15m x 1m and 5m x 1m, running to the NW of 32869. Enclosure banks PRN32870 and PRN32872 have been incorporated into this wall although no obvious phasing was noted. Possibly associated with trackway PRN32881.

<b>LLUEST NANT Y</b>	<b>Post Med?/</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>CLEHIR (32872)</b>	<b>Boundary bank</b>			

Linear enclosure bank running for approx. 50m E-W from the L-shaped enclosure and possible sheepfold, down slope to the stream.

<b>LLUEST NANT Y</b>	<b>Post Med?/</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>CLEHIR (32873)</b>	<b>Trackway</b>			

Linear trackway running for 50m approx. N-S from enclosure bank PRN 32874 to stream.

<b>LLUEST NANT Y</b>	<b>Post Med?/</b>	<b>SN7501084500</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>CLEHIR (32874)</b>	<b>Boundary bank</b>			

Linear enclosure bank running E/W for over 200m on the south bank of the stream.

<b>LLUEST NANT Y</b>	<b>Post Med?/</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>CLEHIR (32875)</b>	<b>Boundary bank</b>			

A linear enclosure bank running N-S from bank PRN32874 to stream.

<b>LLUEST NANT Y</b>	<b>Post Med?/</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>CLEHIR (32876)</b>	<b>Deserted rural settlement</b>			

Deserted settlements consisting of a possible Lliest dwelling and associated enclosures and trackways; dwelling PRN32869, enclosure banks PRNs 32870, 32871, 32872, 32874, 32875 and trackways PRN32873 and PRN32881. Area contained a large marshy area close to the stream, masked with rushes, which could mask the main dwelling.

<b>LLUEST NANT Y</b>	<b>Post Med?/</b>	<b>SN74828466</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>CLEHIR (32881)</b>	<b>Trackway</b>			

Trackway running approximately E-W, cross-contour, on the north slopes of the stream. Not traced fully, but runs for at least 40m from the L-shaped enclosure and possible sheepfold PRN 32871.

<b>LLUEST HELFA LAS II</b>	<b>Medieval?;Post</b>	<b>SN75108564</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Generic</b>
<b>(32918)</b>	<b>med/ Long hut</b>			

Platform built into foot of slope, measuring 7m x 3m. Some traces of a structure, with a solid stone wall forming a penannular compartment on the negative portion of the platform. Possibly associated with PRN8579, which lies on the opposite side of the stream. Built at foot of slope just above the bank of a small tributary stream of the Rheidol. Sheltered position, with an easterly aspect.

<b>(55027)</b>	<b>Unknown;Post</b>	<b>SN6653084320</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Generic</b>
	<b>Med?/ Platform</b>			

A pair of denuded house platforms first recorded by the RCAHMMW. The easternmost platform consists of the slight, grass-covered traces of a hollow measuring c10m by 8m, aligned N-S, cut into the hillside on the north facing slope above the road between Salem and Penrhyn-coch. A slight bank lies around the upslope (southern) edge of the site. The 2<sup>nd</sup> platform lies to the west, slightly further downslope, consisting of a platform measuring c7m by 13m, aligned N-S cut into the slope. No features are marked here on either the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (1888) or 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1905) Ordnance Survey maps. *Visited 21/10/2005 (PP)*

<b>(55028)</b>	<b>Post Med/ Well</b>	<b>SN6639384652</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Generic</b>
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A well marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, connected via a short trackway to nearby Brogynin. The importance of wells prior to the advent of mains pumped water cannot be overstated. Wells often represent landscape features of some antiquity, some imbued with religious and ritual significance in the past, and retained this significance until recent times. No above ground evidence of this site now remains. *Visited 21/10/2005 (PP)*

<b>(55029)</b>	<b>Unknown/</b>	<b>SN6583084600</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Generic</b>
	<b>Enclosure</b>			

A semi-circular earthwork enclosure first recorded by the RCAHMW. The site measures c40m in diameter, defined by denuded earth banks 3-4m wide and 0.2-0.3m high with no evidence of an accompanying ditch. The northern edge is defined by Afon Stewi. The site lies in the valley bottom, adjacent to the small river, in a pasture field. The date and function of the enclosure is unclear, it may represent a prehistoric site, possibly built for pastoral purposes as its low lying location with no evidence of a ditch argues against a defensive function. Alternatively it could be Medieval or later in date, relating to a period of more intensive settlement or agricultural activity in this area, possibly associated with a platform to the south (PRN 55283). This enclosure is not marked on either the tithe map of 1846 or the 1<sup>st</sup> (1888) or 2<sup>nd</sup> (1905) edition Ordnance Survey maps. *Visited* 21/10/2002 (PP)

**PEN-Y-CWM (55033)**      **Post Med/**      **SN6479685558 B**      **Generic**  
**Farmstead**

A small working farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. Traditional buildings also survive on this farmstead, described in section ii, that may require additional management (see management prescriptions section ii). *Visited* 21/10/2005 (PP)

**(55034)**      **Post Med/ Pound**      **SN6481885607 C**      **Generic**

A square pound in the corner of the field marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. No longer marked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1905 and no above ground remains of the site are currently visible. *Visited* 21/10/2005 (PP)

**(55267)**      **Post Med/**      **SN7510484462 C**      **Generic**  
**Sheepfold**

A rectangular sheepfold enclosure lying in an upland area marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. Aligned NE-SW. No longer marked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map of 1905.

**(55269)**      **Post Med/ Cottage**      **SN7472884178 B**      **Generic**

A possible cottage site. Marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 consisting of two buildings, one aligned NE-SW against the trackway with a 2<sup>nd</sup> aligned NW-SE with adjoining enclosure. The tithe map of 1846 marks a building at this point, described as 'Farm Buildings & Yard', suggesting this site may have operated either as a small farmstead or outlying farm buildings of Aber-Peithnant farmstead to the east. The site was not visited during the farm survey (21/10/2005), but recent aerial photography suggests the walls of these buildings survive.

**(55270)**      **Post Med/**      **SN7475483703 C**      **Generic**  
**Sheepfold**

A sheepfold marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. Roughly square, measuring c8m x 7m, located on a piece of flatter ground between the Hirnant and Afon Rheidol. The tithe map of 1846 marks a small structure at this point lying in a field called 'Cae Hen ?Ardd'. It is unclear if this was originally a building or was built as a sheepfold. The site was not visited during a farm survey (21/10/05) but recent aerial photography indicates the outline of the stone built structure survives, two sides formed by field boundaries.

**TYNFRONDEL;FRON-**      **Post Med/**      **SN6791276863 B**      **Generic**  
**DALE;BRONDALE**      **Farmstead**  
**(55271)**

A farmstead complex marked on the tithe map of 1847. The more accurate 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 shows the farmstead consisting of a farmhouse at the western end of the complex with two farm ranges arranged in an L-shaped to the east. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. Traditional buildings may also survive on this farmstead that may require additional management (see management prescriptions section ii).

**(55282)**      **Post Med;Modern/**      **SN6647184054 B**      **Generic**  
**Mine shaft**

A small mine shaft. Presumably dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as it is not marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 but marked as 'Old Shaft' on the 2nd edition map of 1905. The site is now visible as a grass covered and rock filled depression measuring c2m x 1m surrounded by a low bank, situated against the field boundary. *Visited* 21/10/2005 (PP)





**W facing shot of the mine shaft.**

(55283)

**Post Med?/  
Platform**

**SN6586284484 B**

**Generic**

A raised rectangular platform aligned roughly east-west along the field boundary. The platform measures c19m E-W by 6m N-S, and c 0.5m high. The platform would appear to correspond to a range of buildings marked on the tithe map of 1846, part of the small farmstead of Tyn r helig. The farmhouse would appear to survive, now called Tai Bach and lying outside this farm holding but these farm buildings appear to have been removed along with associated field enclosures by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. *Visited 21/10/2005 (PP)*



**SSW facing shot of building platform against the hedgeline. Tai Bach lies on the opposite side of the road at the right hand side of the picture.**

## **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)

## 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	PEN-Y-CWM ( <a href="#">55033</a> )	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN6479685558	B	Specific

A small working farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837. To the north of the farmhouse is a U-shaped layout of traditional farm buildings. The western range is built of mortared random rubble with a slate roof, replaced in sections by corrugated metal roofing. This range is divided between a long low section with wide square headed openings and windows facing the central yard, with a taller lofted barn at the southern end. This range is marked on the tithe map of 1847 which also marks an opposing range forming the eastern side of the layout. Only the eastern wall remains of this range, which now has a modern roof, open to the yard. At the northern end of the yard is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century cartshed, built in random mortared rubble with low brick arches over wide double openings facing south, with windows above and a corrugated iron roof. There is an external staircase and doorway in the western gable wall. Modern farm buildings have been built against the western side of this complex and on opposite side of the road to the east. *Visited 21/10/2005 (PP)*



**E facing shot of late 19<sup>th</sup> century farm building at the northern end of the farmstead complex.**



SW facing shot of the western range of farm buildings at Pencwm farmstead.

**TYNFRONDEL;FRON- Post Med/  
DALE;BRONDALE Farmstead  
(55271)**

**SN6791276863 B**

**Generic**

A farmstead complex marked on the tithe map of 1847. The more accurate 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 shows the farmstead consisting of a farmhouse at the western end of the complex with two farm ranges arranged in an L-shaped to the east. We have no information on traditional buildings on this farm, but traditional buildings may survive within the farmstead, for which the following management prescriptions would apply.

## **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**

**PEN-Y-CWM (55033)**

**SN6479685558**

*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 traditional buildings and maintain the historic character of the complex of traditional farm buildings as a whole. The farm buildings are still in use and generally in a good condition. The corrugated iron roof of the farm building at the northern end of the U-shaped complex is rusting and may be deteriorating in places.

- The deteriorating roofing could be replaced, using materials appropriate to the farmstead and locality (corrugated iron/slate).

### **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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*PP - 27/10/2005 ( 11:32:25 ) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology Project record number 54212.*

*Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.*

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*[www.cambria.org.uk](http://www.cambria.org.uk)*

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

*Sources consulted:*

**Cambria Archaeology Sites and Monuments Record**

**Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales. Historic Landscape Character Areas 53**

**Bwlcherwys, 65 Pen-Rhiw-Newydd, 71 Disgwylfa, 72 Nant-y-Moch, 76 Bryngwyn, 77**

**Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, 86 Hen Gaer & 100 Penrhyn-coch and Pen-bont Rhydybeddau.**

**Ordnance Survey 1837 Old Series 1" map, No.LIX**

**Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.III.16**

**Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.III.16**

**Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.IV.16**

**Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VI.3, 4 & 8**

**Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VI.3, 4 & 8**

**Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VII.1 & 5**

**Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VII.1 & 5**

**Ordnance Survey 1887/8 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VIII.4 & 8**

**Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VIII.4 & 8**

**Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.XI.5**

**Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.XI.5**

**RCAHMW (Driver, T.). Coflein Online Database.**

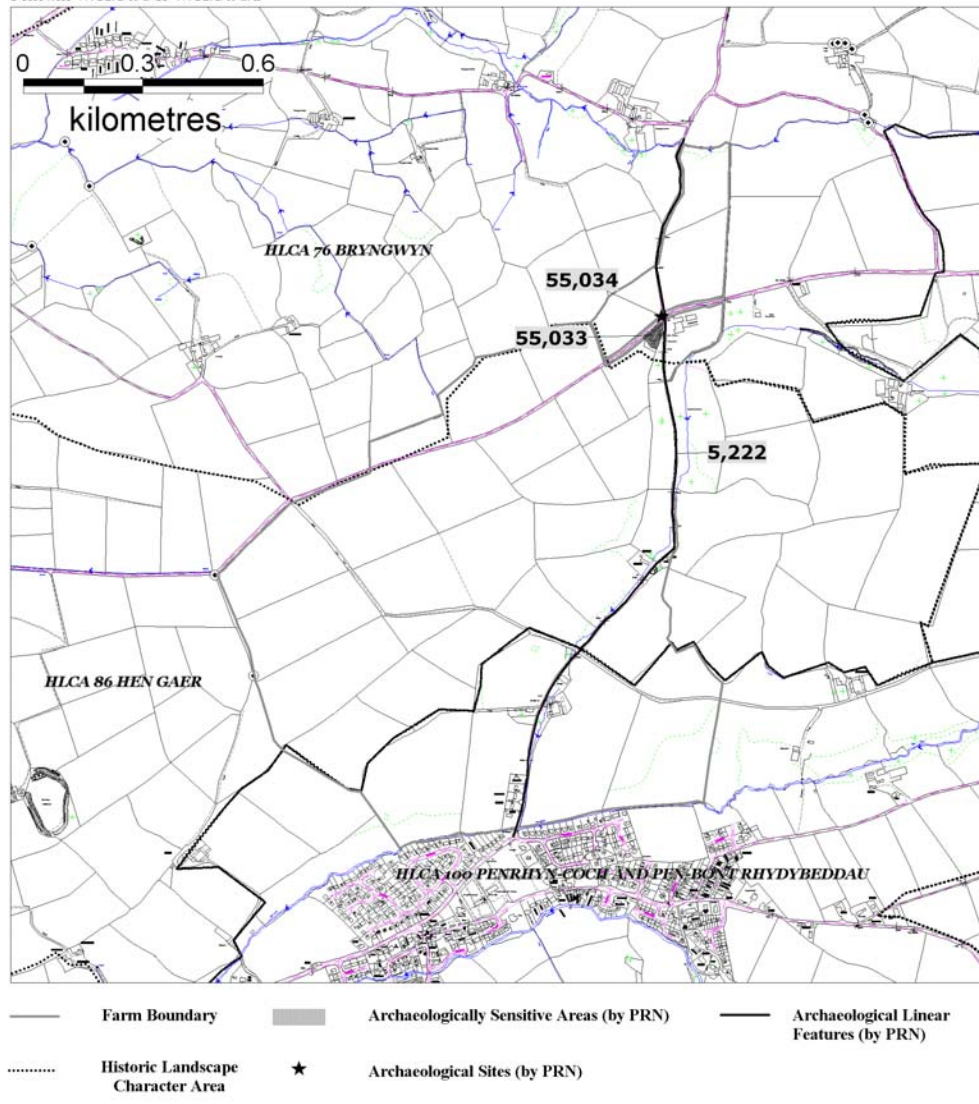
**Tithe Map 1846 Llanbadarn Fawr Parish**

**Tithe Map 1847 Llanfihangel y Creuddyn Lower Parish**

**Williams, D.H. 1990. Atlas of Cistercian Lands in Wales**

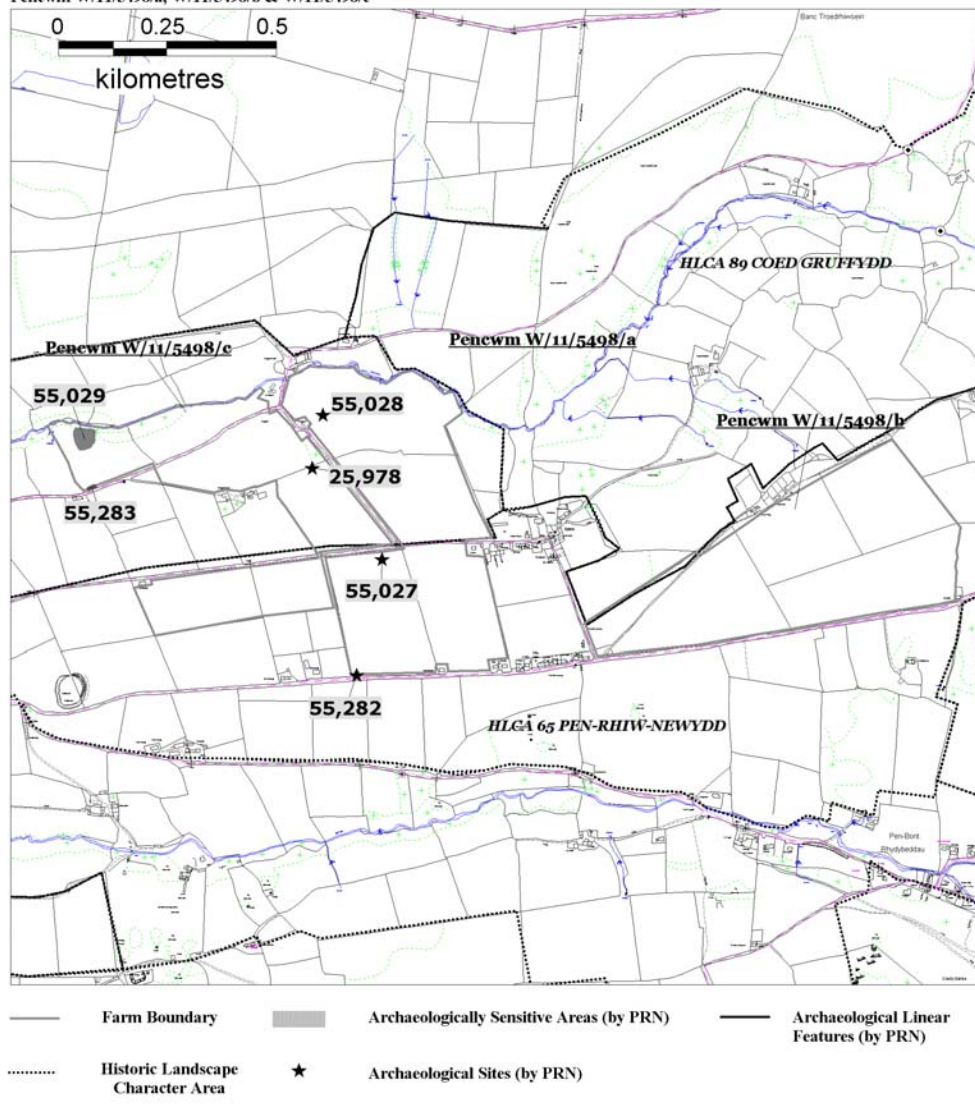


Pencwm W/11/5498 & W/11/5498/d



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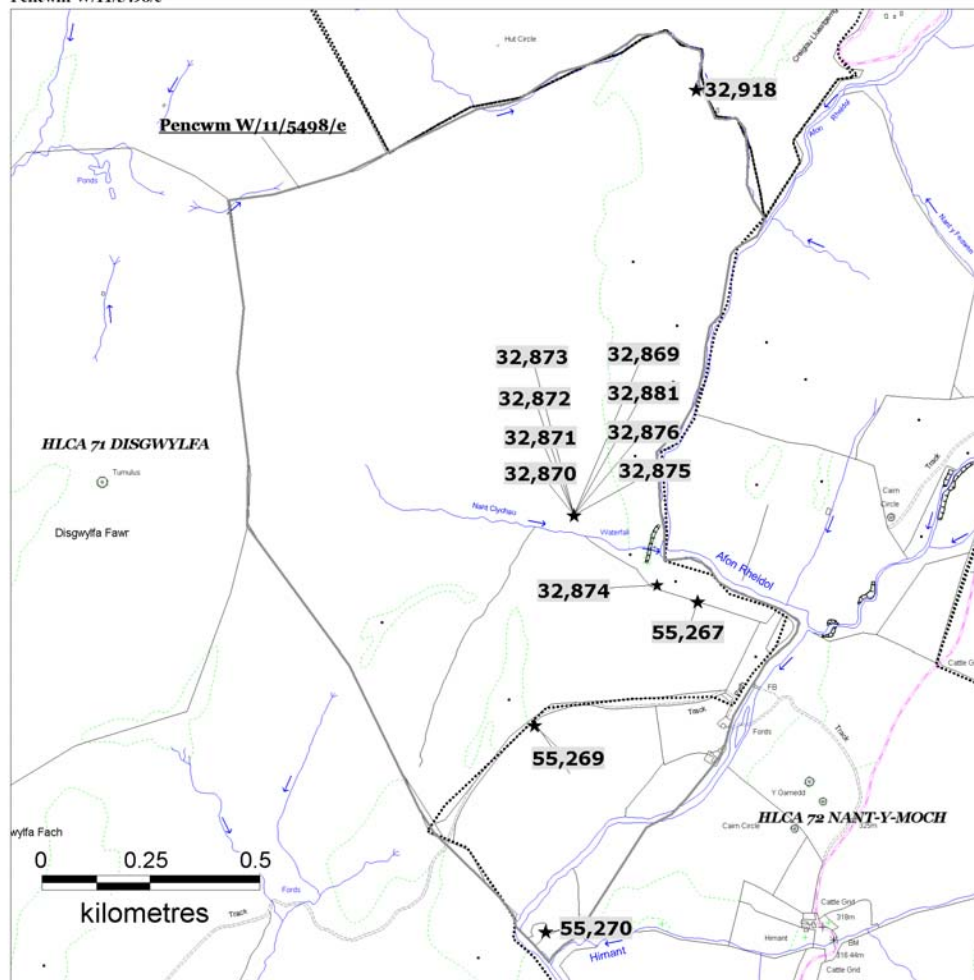
Pencwm W/11/5498/a, W/11/5498/b & W/11/5498/c



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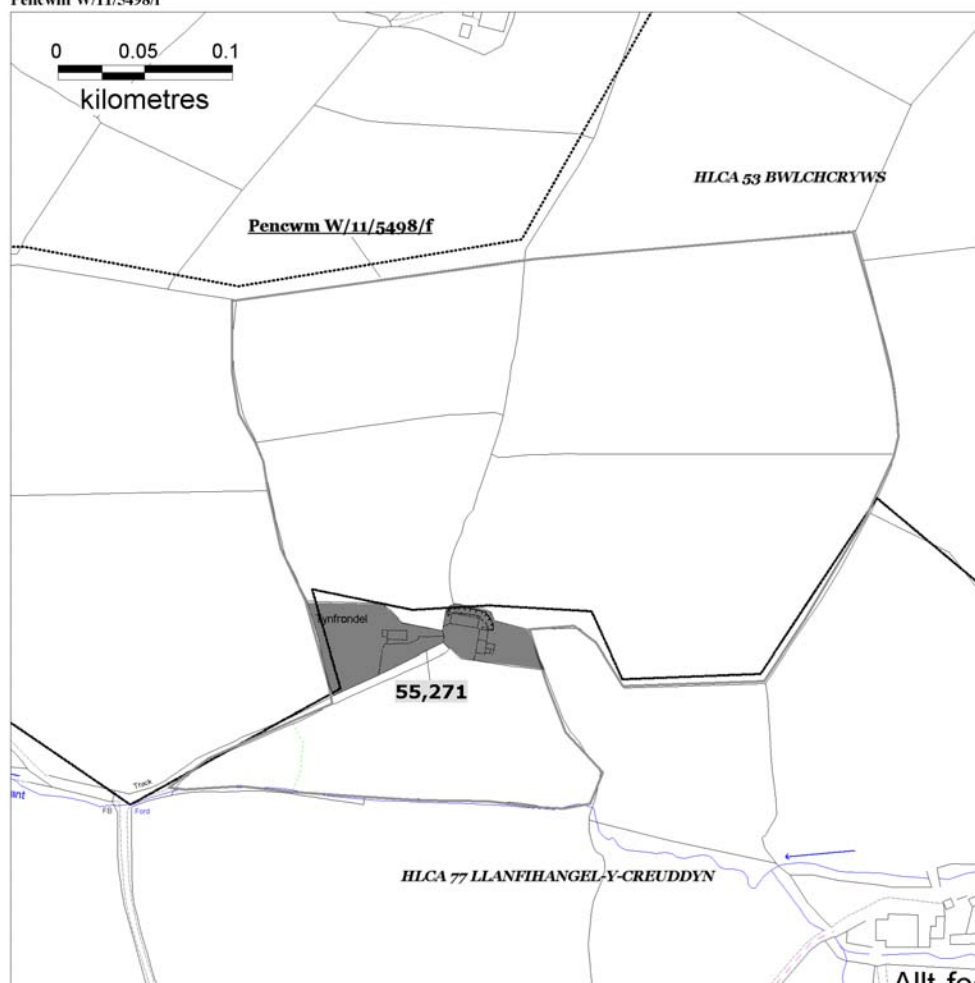
Pencwm W/11/5498/e



	Farm Boundary		Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)		Archaeological Linear Features (by PRN)
	Historic Landscape Character Area		Archaeological Sites (by PRN)		

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Pencwm W/11/5498/f



	Farm Boundary		Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)		Archaeological Linear Features (by PRN)
	Historic Landscape Character Area		Archaeological Sites (by PRN)		

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## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 53 BWLCHCRWYS

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 701771

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 834.0

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#### **Historic Background**

As with neighbouring areas, the early history of this area has not been researched. By the 18th century it had been divided between the Crosswood and Nanteos estates. Late 18th- and early-19th century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Deeds No. 5, Ser IV, Vol 1, 16; NLW Vol 45, 31 32, 39, 41; NLW Nanteos 349 and 312) show that during this period large tracts of land in this area were unenclosed sheep-walk - Cefn Garreg, Cefn Banal and Banc Cae Magwr. Farmsteads were isolated and usually possessed one or two small fields next to the dwellings set in a sea of unenclosed sheep-walk, or as at Cennant small fields adjacent to the farm and larger enclosures further out. In some instances farms did not even have paddocks or small fields. At Bwlchcrwys in 1764 (NLW Nanteos 312) the boundary of the farm seems to have been demarcated by a bank, hedge or fence, but no internal divisions were present and the farmhouse was located in ground labelled 'Clear Open Ground' and 'Turbary'. By the time of the tithe survey of the 1840s much of the former unenclosed land had been formed into large fields and sub-division of the large enclosures had taken place. Further enclosure occurred in the latter half of the 19th century.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This moderately large landscape area consists of several east-west aligned, rounded ridges which achieve a height of 340m, separated by valleys at 200-280m. Apart from 20th century small-scale conifer plantations it is essentially a treeless landscape. Almost all land is under improved grazing, though pockets of peaty and rushy ground lie in some hollows, and rough pasture is present on steep slopes. Old field boundaries comprise earth banks. No hedges are present except for occasional derelict and/or overgrown examples close to farmsteads. Wire fences now divided the area into large and very large enclosures; some fences follow the old bank boundaries. The overall appearance of this area, especially when seen from a distance, is of improved, unenclosed land. Dispersed farms and cottages characterise the settlement pattern. Two chapels testify to the relatively high population level. Buildings are stone-built with slate roofs. Evidence of small-scale mining is present; small reservoirs are presumably associated with these mines. Crossing the area from west to east is the A4120. This former turnpike road was the main route to the east out of west Wales prior to the construction of a new turnpike - the present A 44 - in 1829 (Coyler 1984, 180).

Recorded archaeology in this area provides time-depth for the landscape. Two Bronze Age round barrows and a possible third are present. An Iron Age hillfort is located to the northeast of the area, and earthworks in the northwest are probable evidence of a second. Most of the archaeological remains are associated with the metal mining industry, though old quarries are a distinctive feature of the landscape, and the place-name Felinwynt probably refers to the site of a windmill.

To the north the bounds of this area are particularly well-defined against the steep and heavily wooded valley side of the Rheidol (area 55). The deep valley of Cwm Magwr defines the area to the southwest. To the northeast area 87 consists of small fields and a nucleated settlement, and to the east area 78 was formerly unenclosed land. Area 54 to the south contains a denser scatter of settlements and (mostly) intact old field system. Squatter settlement 128 lies to the east.

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 65 PEN-RHIW-NEWYDD

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 674874

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 184.4

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area has not been researched. It may have been considered unenclosed Crown land for much of the early post-Medieval Period. By the late 18th-century at least part of it had come into the possession of the Gogerddan estate. An estate map of 1788 (NLW R.M. 108) shows the ridge to the northeast of Tyn Gelli as enclosed into two large fields, with most of the remainder unenclosed apart from three 'slangs' alongside a public road. By the mid 19th-century the whole area had been sub-divided into fields. Further sub-division took place in the second half of the 19th century. A chapel was established at Salem in 1824 (Percival 1998, 517), but no settlement developed here until after the tithe survey of 1845 (Llanbadarn tithe map and apportionment). Indeed, apart from Pantyffynnon Farm, all settlements in this area, including linear development at Salem and Pen-rhiw-newydd and isolated cottages, were established in the second half of the 19th-century. The mechanism of these foundations is not certain. They may be squatter settlements, but a date in the second half of the 19th century is rather late, and they may have been, therefore, established under the aegis of an estate or other landowner.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

An east-west rounded ridge, the crest of which descends from 320m in the east to less than 150m on its western end. The lower slopes of the ridge run down to below 120m. The ridge has been divided by low earth banks and occasional dry-stone walls into a field system of regular enclosures. No hedges survive on the ridge crest, and wire fences running along the old banks and walls provide stock-proof boundaries. On the lower slopes occasional semi-derelict hedges are present, and the earth banks are somewhat more substantial here. It is essentially a treeless landscape. Improved grazing dominates, with some rougher ground on the steeper flanks of the ridge. A straight road runs along the ridge crest. The settlement pattern consists of dispersed cottages with 19th century linear development at Salem and Pen-rhiw-newydd. Older houses are stone-built with slate roofs. At Pen-rhiw-newydd there is a mixture of this older housing and modern rendered concrete and brick dwellings.

Recorded archaeology comprises metal mining remains and a small Iron Age Fort. Ridge and furrow on the ridge crest is not dated, though may indicate agricultural use of the area prior to enclosure in the late 18th- and early 19th-century.

This is a well-defined area. To the north, south and west lies lower, enclosed land with extant hedges and stands of woodland (area 100). To the east is modern forestry (area 8).

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 71 DISGWYLFA

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 735847

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 1850

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#### **Historic Background**

The extreme southwest corner of this area lay within Cwm-hir Abbey's Nantyrarian Grange. The remainder has probably always been unenclosed and therefore claimed by the Crown. Part of the grange had been acquired by the Gogerddan estate by at least the end of the 18th century. Estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 71; NLW Vol 37, 47, 49, 55, 56) of that date depict this area as unenclosed sheep-walk with one or two isolated cottages. During the course of the 19th century the southern fringes of this area were divided into very large fields. Running north - south through this area is an ancient road - estate maps cited above record this as the route from Machynlleth to Ffair Rhos. By the mid 19th-century the road had virtually disappeared, as George Borrow found to his cost during his walking tour of Wales (Walker 1998, 300). Important metal mines lie towards the northern fringes of this area. Hafan mine was worked in the 1720s by Sir Hugh Myddelton, and Henfwlch mine from at least the early 18th century. Both mines were worked in the mid 19th-century by the Hafan and Henfwlch Co. (Bick 1988, 46-48). Production had almost ceased by the end of the 19th century, even though in 1897 the mines were linked to the coast by the short-lived Plynlimon and Hafan Tramway (Lewis 1998, 178). On the course of the tramway, Bwlchglas mine opened in 1889, and was worked during the early years of the 20th century (Bick 1988, 34).

#### **Description and essential landscape components**

This is an extensive area of unenclosed upland. It includes the craggy peaks and slopes of Disgwylyfa Fawr at 507m and valley sides of the Rheidol down to below 300m. There are no inhabited settlements in the area. Almost the entire area is rough sheep-walk, though on the lower slopes, particularly on the southern limits of the area, there are patches of improved grazing. In these areas relict earth banks of old - 19th century - enclosures are evident. These lower slopes are now generally divided by wire fences. Relict stony banks were also noted at higher levels, some of which seem to be associated with deserted settlements of unknown date. Remains of the lead mining industry on the northern fringes of this area are very impressive components of the historic landscape, and comprise: tips, quarries, inclines, adits, buildings and a major tramway. At Bwlchglas concrete foundations testify to the relative recent date of the workings.

A regular distribution of deserted settlements in the archaeological record indicates a populated area, albeit sparsely, through to the 19th century. Other sites include minor metal mines in addition to the ones mentioned above. A time-depth element to the landscape is provided by several prominent summit Bronze Age round barrows and by Dinas Iron Age hillfort.

This area possesses fairly clear borders. On many sides it is bounded by modern forestry plantations (areas 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), and elsewhere by lower-lying enclosed and settled land (areas 72, 73, 74, 75).

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 72 NANT-Y-MOCH

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN756855

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 952.2

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area has not been researched, however, it is likely much was claimed by the Crown as unenclosed land. By the late 18th-century, land on the lower slopes and the valley floor was recorded as farms on Gogerddan and Nanteos estate maps. The date of the foundation of these farms is unclear, they may be of some antiquity, or of more recent date; the result of encroachment on unenclosed land. It is also unclear how they came into the possession of the Gogerddan and Nanteos estates. The estate maps (NLW R.M. C21; NLW Vol 45, 24; NLW Vol 37, 37) show typical upland farms - Camddwr Mawr, Camddwr Bach, Maesnant, Nant Llyn, Nant Caerhedyn and Nant Hirnant - of the late 18th- and early 19th-century: isolated farms with one or two small adjacent fields set in vast tracts of open sheep-walk. During the 19th century sheep-walk on the lower slopes was divided into large fields. In 1865 a Calvinistic Methodist church was established at Blaenrheidol to serve the community, but was relatively short-lived as in 1964 it was submerged beneath the waters of Nant-y-Moch reservoir. Nant-y-Moch reservoir forms part of the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme, and its waters and dam, together with those of Dinas reservoir lower down the valley, form a dramatic component to the landscape.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

The upper Rheidol valley. The river descends through this area in a series of cataracts from a high point of 400m at its northern end down to 240m at its southern end. The rivers flow has been interrupted by the construction of two dams for the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme. The upper and more massive of the two contains the extensive Nant-y-Moch reservoir, the lower - Dinas - retains a more modest body of water. Both reservoirs are dramatic and important elements of the historic landscape. Adjacent to Dinas are buildings and car parks of the hydro-electric scheme. This landscape of power generation is superimposed over an agricultural landscape of hill farms. Farms are widely dispersed and are traditionally stone-built with slate roofs, but modern rendered concrete dwellings are present. All farms have steel-framed or other modern buildings annexed to them. Deserted farms and cottages are also present. Field patterning comprises large enclosures divided by earth and stony banks with occasional dry-stone walls. At lower levels derelict hedges lie on some of the banks, but most boundaries are now redundant, and the enclosures are formed from wire fences. Rough grazing is the dominant land-use, with improved grazing close to farms and on some moderate- to steep-slopes. Most gently sloping to flat-land is under rushy, peaty-ground. It is essentially a treeless landscape.

Recorded archaeology in this area is rich and varied. Numerous remains of deserted settlements indicate a more populated landscape through to the 19th century. Minor agricultural features - clearance cairns and boundary walls/banks - are often associated with these settlements. Remains of metal mines are also common, particularly on the northern boundary. Bronze Age barrows/cairns and many other possible sites - often occurring in groups -, possible standing stones and finds of prehistoric date indicate a settled landscape 3000-4000 years ago, but the only direct evidence for occupation are two burnt mounds or hearths.

Apart from the south where this area borders the lower-lying and more settled land of Ponterwyd (area 84), this area is bounded by modern forestry (areas 9, 11, 12) or unenclosed upland (areas 21, 71). The boundary between this area and unenclosed upland is not clear, and is probably in a constant state of flux as the limits of improved grazing are pushed higher up the hillsides.

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 76 BRYNGWYN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 645870

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 537.2

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#### **Historic Background**

The early history of this area has not been researched. By the late 18th-century nearly all the land was divided between the estates of Gogerddan, Court Grange, Bryngwyn and Cynull Mawr. Estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 35, 36; NLW R.M. C22; NLW Vol 38, 8; NLW Vol 42) of the late 18th- and early 19th-century show a landscape almost identical to that of today - dispersed farms, irregular fields and scattered woodland. The origin of the settlement pattern and field system is unknown, but it is likely that the estates mentioned above were created during a period of transition in the late Medieval Period, when the concept of private ownership was becoming accepted. If so, then it is likely that the settlement pattern of dispersed farms dates to at least this period. The field system may have been established contemporaneously with the farms. Place-names such as Maesnewydd and Maes-y-dogn suggest, however, the former presence of a strip- or sub-divided field system.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area consists of undulating west- and northwest-facing slopes of a minor valley lying between 50m and 150m. The historic landscape comprises a settlement pattern of dispersed farms and cottages set within a field system of irregular, small enclosures, with small stands of deciduous woodland and conifer plantations. Improved pasture dominates, with very little rough pasture and poor quality land present. The field patterning is in good condition. Boundaries are mostly of earth banks topped with hedges, with occasional dry-stone walls on the higher slopes. Hedges are generally in good condition, with occasional distinctive trees, but in some areas, particularly at higher levels they are becoming overgrown and neglected. Older, traditional buildings are stone-built with slate roofs, including the impressive Maesnewydd farm which was mostly rebuilt in the 19th century. Interspersed with older buildings are modern dwellings and structures, including a small nucleation at Rhydypennau. Most farms have steel-frame or other modern structures annexed to them.

Recorded archaeology includes the remains of minor metal mines on the eastern border of the area and two corn mills. A time-depth element to the landscape is provided by a small Iron Age hillfort, four Bronze Age burnt mounds or hearths - possible settlement sites - and finds of Bronze Age date.

This area is not easy to define. To the west and north landscape areas have yet to be described, and to the east and south this area merges with less ancient but nevertheless similar, land.

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 77 LLANFIHANGEL-Y-CREUDDYN

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 668759

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 588.2

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#### **Historic Background**

The history of this area has not been researched. Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn was probably the administrative centre for Cwmwd Creuddyn in the Medieval Period. Rees (1932) records it as a trading centre, but not a borough. It is uncertain when a church was established here, but the dedication hints at a pre Anglo-Norman foundation. The current imposing cruciform church dates from mainly the Middle Ages - the 14th- to 15th-century (Ludlow 1998). Morgan (1997, 192) considers that Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn was a bond vill of the Welsh lords of Creuddyn. If this is correct, then the implication is that there would have been a small nucleated settlement surrounded by a strip or open-field system. There are no map sources to support this, though compelling evidence comes from a document of 1743 quoted by Morgan (1997, 191) which refers to a slang of ground 131 by 11 yards in Pen-dre fields. In the 18th century Llanfihangel is occasionally referred to as a hamlet of half a dozen cottages. Assuming Morgan's suggestion is correct, there is little evidence to indicate when the loose girdle of farms that surrounded the village was created, and when the modern field system was established. However, it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, with the acceptance in the concept of private ownership, farms held in severalty and small estates were being carved out of former strip fields. This was possibly the case at Llanfihangel where the small estate of Abertrinant (now a farm) was recorded in the early modern period. It is therefore to the 15th and 16th-century that we must look to find the origins of the modern field system and dispersed settlement pattern. Estate maps of the 18th and early 19th-century and the tithe map of 1847 show a landscape similar to that of today - a nucleated settlement and dispersed farms set in a system of small fields.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape characteristics**

Centred on the village of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn, this area includes the floor and sides of the terminal of an open-sided valley. The valley floor lies at 80m and sides rise up to over 180m. It is a remarkably homogeneous area, consisting of small fields of improved pasture bounded by earth banks topped by hedges. There are small stands of deciduous woodland and conifer plantations. Improved pasture dominates, with virtually no rougher ground or arable. Hedges are generally in good condition and well maintained, though some are overgrown and becoming neglected. Wire fences supplement most hedge boundaries. The field patterning of long narrow fields, particularly close to the village, indicates that the present enclosed pattern evolved from an open- or strip-field system. The settlement pattern comprises the small nucleation of Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn surrounded by a loose girdle of dispersed farms. The village retains much of its historic character, a fine terrace of 18th- 19th-century stone-built cottages is present, and very little modern development has occurred. Six of these dwellings are listed for their group value. Traditional buildings are stone-built with slate roofs, interspersed with modern dwellings of rendered concrete. Most farms have steel-frame or other modern buildings annexed to them.

Recorded archaeology of this area is mostly composed of standing buildings - a church, chapel, dwellings, two mills and a smithy - however a cropmark enclosure indicates greater time-depth in the landscape as it may be the ploughed-out remains of an Iron Age fort. Two place-names, Castell Cynon and Castell Banc-y-mor, may also indicate sites of Iron Age hillforts or other defensive sites.

Though this is a distinct character area, its boundaries are not particularly well-defined. On the south side this area bounds the estate landscape of Crosswood (area 51). To the west landscape areas have yet to be described. Elsewhere land rises to higher, formerly unenclosed and less settled land (areas 53, 78, 80, 87, 94).



## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 86 HEN GAER

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 640846

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 282.7

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#### **Historic Background**

This area lay within Strata Florida's Y Dywarchen Grange in the Medieval Period, and may have included the site of a gallows (Williams 1990, 57). In the post-Medieval Period the area passed into the hands of the small independent estate of Court Farm and the Gogerddan estate. Estate maps of the late 18th-century show the area as either unenclosed, enclosed with medium-sized fields or as a plantation. The plantation belonged to the Gogerddan estate, and has been replanted with conifers by the Forestry Commission. By the 1840s the whole area had been enclosed. The general impression from estate maps is of a landscape that was open until the mid 18th-century, even at lower levels of 50m. A single farmstead/cottage - Ty'n y cwm - is probably of post-Medieval date.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area lies across the western terminal of a rounded, east-west aligned, ridge. The ridge crest achieves a height of 160m, the flanks run down to about 50m. The whole of the area is under a regular field system of medium-sized enclosures. The divisors of these fields comprise earth banks topped with hedges. These hedges are generally in good condition, though are usually supplemented with wire fences. Improved pasture dominates the landscape, with a conifer plantation under-planted on an older deciduous plantation at the western end, and conifer and deciduous plantations at the eastern end.

There are few sites in the archaeological record for this area, but those known of provide great time-depth to the landscape. The most prominent site is a substantial Iron Age hillfort, Hen Gaer, which lies on the crest of the ridge. Other sites include: finds of Roman date, a Bronze Age round barrow and burnt mound; the latter possibly indicating a settlement, and a place-name suggesting pillow mound or rabbit warren of Medieval or later date.

To the west, south and north lower-lying more ancient enclosed and settled land provides a clearly defined boundary with this area (areas 76, 100). To the east area 64 is historically similar to area 86 - post-Medieval enclosure on a ridge-crest - but in area 64 the field boundaries have become derelict and the appearance of the area is now quite different.

## UPLAND CEREDIGION

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### HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 100 PENRHYN-COCH AND PEN-BONT RHYDYBEDDAU

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**GRID REFERENCE:** SN 646840

**AREA IN HECTARES:** 381.3

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#### **Historic Background**

The northern part of this area lay within Strata Florida's Y Dywarchen Grange in the Medieval Period. Traditionally the administrative centre of the grange was at Cwrt, which lies within this area. Williams (1990, 57) records a water mill and ancient barn here with gallows on the hill above. Following the Dissolution, a small independent estate - Court Farm - seems to have been carved out of the monastic lands, before being incorporated into the Gogerddan estate. The history of the small nucleated village of Penrhyn-coch is un-researched and therefore not known. It is likely that it is a late development; morphology and map evidence indicate a small settlement here until the late 19th-century. A church was not constructed until 1881 (Jones 1998, 499). It is a similar story for the smaller hamlet of Pen-bont Rhydybeddau, although this settlement seems to have been established in the 18th- and 19th-centuries to serve the metal mines in this area, and those of Cwm Daren and Twll y Mwyn located in area 61. Dispersed farmsteads represent the ancient settlement pattern of the area. These farms are likely to be of some antiquity; they certainly date to the late 18th-century, and in all probability have their origins in the Medieval Period. By the late 18th-century properties formed part of the holdings of the Gogerddan, Crosswood or Court Farm estates. Estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 67; Crosswood 345, 346; R.M. C22; Scott Archer 20; Vol 38, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14) depict several of the farms in a landscape of small, irregular fields and regular strip-like fields - essentially a landscape similar to today. Some of the fields depicted on the estate maps seem to be enclosed strips, indicating the former presence of a sub-divided field system out of which the present landscape has evolved. The 20th century has witnessed a rapid expansion in the village of Penrhyn-coch, with new housing estate, a sports field and other developments. Metal mining in this area was concentrated at Bronfloyd. This was worked in the 17th century, with its richest period in the 19th century. Production finally ceased in 1892 (Bick 1988, 26-28). The garden at Pen-y-berth Farm is recorded on the Welsh Historic Garden Database.

#### **Description and essential historic landscape components**

This area is centred on the valleys of the Afon Stewi and Nant Silo, and includes the valley floors and lower slopes. There is a height range of 50m to 110m. The western end of this area is dominated by the village of Penrhyn-coch, which sprawls across the valley floors, and includes many new concrete and brick houses, some established in small estates. Away from the village, older historic components of the landscape are much in evidence. Field patterning of small irregular enclosures and regular strip-enclosures has survived intact for at least two centuries. This includes a long, distinctive boundary between enclosed strips and former unenclosed land on the north side of the Stewi valley. Field boundaries comprise earth banks topped with hedges. Close to Penrhyn-coch and on the valley floors hedges are in fair to good condition, but on the higher valley sides and towards the eastern end of the area they are becoming overgrown and derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. At the eastern end close to Broginin dry-stone walls form some of the boundaries. Farmland is now almost entirely improved grazing. There are small stands of deciduous trees, especially on the valley floors, and a small conifer plantation. Buildings of the dispersed farmsteads are traditionally stone-built with slate roofs, though a scatter of modern rendered concrete dwellings is superimposed on this. Most farms include modern steel-frame farm buildings. The hamlet of Pen-bont Rhydybeddau consists essentially of early 19th-century stone-built houses, several of which are listed for their group value. The remains of Bronfloyd lead mine, including buildings, processing floors and tips are important components of the historic landscape.

Recorded archaeology in this area mainly comprises post-Medieval extant secular and ecclesiastical buildings and metal mine remains. However, a time-depth element to the landscape is provided by a Roman coin hoard, a Bronze Age round barrow and a Bronze Age burnt mound or hearth.

To the south and north former unenclosed land (areas 61, 64, 65, 85, 86) clearly defines this landscape area. The landscape area to the west has not yet been defined, while to the east woodland and small fields of the upper valley of the Afon Stewi represent a substantially different character area.