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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

Prepared for:
Hen Fynachlog



Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/5538

Prepared by
Will Steele

Report No. **2006/56**
Project No. **54241**

Other documents enclosed:

Historic Landscape Character Areas: 1 CORS CARON/TREGARON BOG; 15 CAMBRIAN MOUNTAINS; 27 SUNNYHILL AND OLD ABBEY FARM HLCA 28 BWLCHDDWYALLT AND BLAENGORFFEN; 30 HEOLFRYN, DOLBEUDLAU AND BRYNHOPE; 117 AFON MWYRO

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Hen Fynachlog consists of four land holdings in Ceredigion. The home farm of Hen Fynachlog (Old Abbey Farm) (/5538) and holding /5538c lie within the community of Ystrad Fflur. Holding 5538a lies 14km to the northwest in the coastal community of Llanrhystud and holding 5538b lies some 10km to the southwest of the main holding in Llangetho community.

The home farm (/5538) and holding /5538c lie on the west side of the Cambrian Mountains. The surrounding area is registered as the Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest HLW (D) 2) in recognition of its significant landscape value. It has been further assessed under the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project. These are non-statutory designations to raise awareness and understanding of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation.

The home farm (/5538) overlooks Cors Caron incorporating the flat, drained land on the east side and the undulating hills behind (Historic Landscape Character Areas 1 Cors Caron; 27 Sunnyhill and Old Abbey Farm; 28 Bwlchddwyallt and Blaengorffen; 30 Heolfryn, Dlobeudlau and Brynhope). In the medieval period the area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange and there is a tradition that the original abbey site lay within the area at the farm of Hen Fynachlog. In common with most of Strata Florida's other granges, it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, it was divided into many farms and leased out on a commercial basis. At the dissolution Strata Florida's lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, latter passing to the Vaughan Family of Crosswood in 1630. The settlement pattern and characteristic small irregular fields are therefore likely to have early origins. These contrast with the larger, more regular enclosures along the edge of Cors Caron and along the upland fringe which probably originated in the systematic enclosure of formerly marginal land in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries.

Holding (/5538c) to the east (Historic Landscape Character Area 15: Cambrian Mountains) consists primarily of unimproved, rough grazing with blanket bog at higher levels and peaty deposits in most hollows and valleys. There is some improved grazing, mostly on the lower slopes where there are some wire fences. Deserted rural settlements of the medieval and later periods are a common landscape component.

Holding 5538a lies close to Llanrystud, to the south of the Afon Wyre, the river forming the northern boundary of the holding. The river valley is steep sided and wooded, set within a gently undulating landscape of irregular medium sized fields. This area also lay within the Abbey Granges of Strata Florida (Williams 1990, 56-7). The settlement pattern and characteristic small irregular fields are therefore likely to have early origins.

Some ten or so kilometres to the south, holding 5538b lies close to Llangeitho on high ground above the wooden valley sides of the Afon Gwenffrwd. The processes behind the creation of this landscape are less well understood but the medium sized, irregular shaped field enclosures here are also likely to be long established, with origins at the end of the medieval period if not before. There are numerous farmsteads present on both of these land holdings.

Archaeological and Historic Content

It is believed that the original Strata Florida Abbey (PRN 6230), founded by the Norman Robert fitz Stephen in 1164, stood some 3km southwest of the present site at Hen Fynachlog Farm. In 1166, Rhys ap Gruffudd, Prince of Deheubarth conquered the Norman lordship in Ceredigion and founded the new abbey at its present site. Of the old abbey no visible traces now remain although late 19th century accounts describe extensive foundations and the church walls still visible above ground level.

The monks managed a number of large granges, which produced foodstuffs, cattle and sheep, wool and lead from the abbey's mines. The many long huts present on holding 5538c and scattered throughout the surrounding hills may have been medieval hafodydd, seasonal dwellings in the pastoral economy whereby sheep and cattle were moved onto the uplands during the summer months to free up lowlands for crop production. Particularly intriguing is a large rectangular earthwork, 56m long x 9m wide (PRN 35646), and currently little understood. It is presumed to have monastic origins and may have been associated with large scale sheep rearing. The site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Cd179).

The numerous small deserted farmsteads and cottages and their associated enclosure boundaries (eg. PRNs 35644, 35645) scattered about the hillsides probably have later origins as permanent settlements. Abandoned farmsteads are also a feature of holdings 5538, 5538a and 5538b recalling a time of increased rural population density before a period of decline from the nineteenth century onwards. Farmsteads such as Brechfa-isaf (PRN 55880) and Lletty-grugiar (PRN 55876) were abandoned relatively recently and retain their historic character with some unusually unaltered nineteenth century buildings.

Hen Fynachlog also has evidence of prehistoric occupation in the form of two round barrows on holding 5538c. These mounds of earth and stone represent the dominant burial tradition during the Bronze Age (2000-600 BC). When excavated they have been found to contain cist lined inhumation burials or cremation burials, the ashes being contained in pottery urns of various types.

Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

The priority for this farm is the sensitive management of the Hafod Eidos earthwork enclosure (PRN35646; SAM Cd179). Detailed management prescriptions are provided below.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to Cambria Archaeology (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local

Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Cambria Archaeology has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to Cambria Archaeology.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
1	HAFOD EIDOS EARTHWORK (35646)	Post Medieval enclosure	SN77346462	A	SAM	Specific
	Large rectangular earthwork, 56m long x 9m wide overall, unique in its scale and form of construction and now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (S.A.M.). Same as PRN 9328.					
	Earth and stone banks stand up to 1m high and up to 2m wide. Overbuilt by drystone fold at northern end, but southern end is cut into foot of moderate slope, with an apparent drainage channel cut around the end of the enclosure to facilitate free drainage. The south end is also overlain by an old drystone boundary wall, long disused and ruinous. Potentially an enclosure associated with a mediaeval hafod associated with Strata Florida Abbey.					
	The enclosure is situated in unenclosed rough grazing land, largely pasture but with bracken and some rushes present. Stable grass cover predominates. Some reed growth has colonised the interior of the sheep fold. No specific management threats.					



The earthwork enclosure, viewed from the south.

- 2 **FFYNNON-WEN** **Post Medieval** **SN5776170217 B** **Specific**
 [\(55878\)](#) **farmstead**

The farmstead has been deserted for many years. Ffynnon-wen comprises of a house and outbuildings in a single long range (41m NE-SW x 6m NW-SE), now ruinous with walls in a state of partial collapse. It is not possible to identify the former layout (position of dwelling etc) with any confidence. There is a garden plot behind the house and other small enclosure to the north and east.

A loose cluster of mature trees now covers the site with other young vegetation coming through. The SW gable wall is ivy covered.

- 3 [\(56445\)](#) **Unknown road?** **SN57577005 A** **Specific**

A low linear earthwork, approximately 6m wide and no more than 0.2m high, can be traced for approximately 90m in pasture to the east of Lletty Crugiar, probably representing the line of an ancient road. The line of the earthwork bears no relation to the current field system which it is likely to pre-date. Further investigation is required if its true nature is to be understood.



Looking northeast along the line of the road earthwork.

- PEN-Y-BWLCH (East)** **Bronze Age round** **SN78036373 A** **Generic**
 [\(5580\)](#) **barrow?**

A turf-covered circular mound, with exposed stones, located on a local summit of Pen-y-Bwlch. The cairn, which measures c.13.5m in diameter and is c.0.4m high, is surmounted by a modern walkers' cairn topped with white quartz boulders. Site not visited (WWS April 2006)

- PEN-Y-BWLCH (West)** **Bronze Age round** **SN77576379 A** **Generic**
 [\(5581\)](#) **barrow**

A near-circular cairn of small, medium and large boulders and stones, c.11.5m in diameter and c.0.75m high, situated on the west-facing slope of a pasture field to the W of Pen-y-Bwlch, which sports round barrow 5580. Stones have been cleared from the centre of the interior which is now turf-covered with an open cist-like structure. This potential cist is sub rectangular, formed of several earthfast upright stones creating a chamber c.0.8m long, 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep. The long axis of the cist is aligned E-W, and there are a few large flat boulders present that could possibly be displaced capstones. The cairn material has been shifted, probably to form a modern sheep-shelter. Some reed growth is colonising the centre of the cairn. Site not visited (WWS April 2006)

HEN FYNACHLOG **Medieval abbey** **SN71776453** **U** **Generic**
[\(6230\)](#)

Farm, named Hen Fynachlog ('Old Monastery'), which occupies the initial site of the Cistercian community that later moved to Strata Florida (PRN 2043). It appears to have been a virgin site, and there is no current evidence for an earlier ecclesiastical establishment on the site.

Of the old abbey no visible traces now remain although late 19th century accounts describe extensive foundations and the church walls still visible above ground level. The site lies within a pasture field.

PEN Y BWLCH [\(8554\)](#) **Medieval deserted** **SN80306370** **U** **Generic**
rural settlement

Sunken drystone structure, with twin parallel walls, 1.4m apart, extending for 9m, closed at the western end with walling, but open at the east, downslope end giving access to the interior. WWS 2006 based on Ordnance Survey 1978. Site not visited.

BLAEN MWYRO [\(8555\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78746408** **U** **Generic**
Medieval?
deserted rural
settlement

The remains of a drystone house, measuring 13.2m by 3.5m internally, orientated northeast-southwest with an extension at the southwest end bringing it to an overall length of 19.2m. An earth banked enclosure, measuring 11.0m by 10.0m lies beyond to the southwest. WWS 2006 based on Ordnance Survey 1978. Site not visited.

BLAEN MWYRO [\(8556\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78256479** **B** **Generic**
Medieval? long hut

Low grassy wall bases, about 0.5m high, define the remains of a three celled structure of unknown function. Measures 15m x 5m overall. It appears that the drystone, eastern gable wall survives in part, having been incorporated into a later drystone field boundary. It is possible that the shadow of a small enclosure appended to the structure survives on its southern side. Two ruinous, but upstanding structures to the north are of unknown relationship - the details of both have largely been obscured by demolition and the dumping of rubble. The site lies within a pasture field. No management threats.



The remains of the long hut, seen from the west. The eastern gable wall survives in part, preserved in the current field boundary.

HAFOD EIDOS ([9329](#))

**Post Medieval
farmhouse**

SN77476466 B

Generic

Ruined stone farmhouse in process of collapse. The building has a central door and windows in the SE facing wall, with a fireplace in the SW gable end. On level ground to the south lie the remains of a yard and outbuildings. On the slope above are the remains of an earthwork potato clamp. No specific management threats: the site is in unenclosed rough grazing land.



The front (E) facing elevation of the farmhouse.

HAFOD EIDOS ([9330](#))

**Post Medieval
stable/ cow house**

SN77476462 B

Generic

Ruined stone outbuilding at Hafod Eidos. Built cross contour with upper lofted stable and a beudy at the downslope end, only the dilapidated walls now surviving. No specific management threats: the site is in unenclosed rough grazing land.



The front (E) facing elevation of the outbuilding.

HAFOD EIDOS ([9331](#))

**Post Medieval
building**

SN77496461 B

Generic

Partially surviving stone walls of former pigsty and outbuilding at Hafod Eidos. No specific management threats: the site is in unenclosed rough grazing land. Reed growth surrounds the building.

BLAENMOIRODD [\(9334\)](#) **Post Medieval outbuilding** **SN78276481 B** **Generic**

Named as Blanmoirodd on the parish tithe survey (1842?). The remains of a two storey stone building (9m EW x 6m NW), surviving to eaves height in the rear (N) wall only, the details of which are now difficult to discern. May be speculated to have had an agricultural function by presence of vent slits in the rear wall. In stable pasture. No specific management concerns.

BLAEN MWYRO [\(9335\)](#) **Post Medieval sheep fold** **SN79366415 C** **Generic**

Drystone sheepfold, two celled. A bare earthwork platform lies alongside (PRN 35650). Site not visited. (WWS April 2006)

UNKNOWN [\(19409\)](#) **Post Medieval quarry** **SN70906390 C** **Generic**

Minor quarry in bank beside trackway, approximately 20m long x 5m wide x 2m high. Appears on Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1905).

GELLI CLWYDAU [\(35644\)](#) **Post Medieval farmstead** **SN77126472 B** **Generic**

Ruined stone cottage and outbuildings. Known to be occupied into the mid-19th century. Built on large cross-contour levelled platform which may be speculated to indicate an early origin. Same as PRN 9327. A circular stone rubble spread behind to NW may represent the foundations of a circular pigsty. The site lies within an area of rough pasture and bracken. No specific management threats.



The possible remains of a circular pigsty lie behind the farmstead.

HAFOD EIDOS [\(35645\)](#) **Post Medieval farmstead** **SN77486466 B** **Generic**

Ruinous upland farmstead complex in state of partial collapse. Includes a farmhouse, outbuildings, storage clamp and enclosures. Known to have been occupied in the late 19th century. A local inhabitant recalled that her father remembered the last occupant of Hafod Eidos, living there towards the end of the 19th century. He was bachelor farmer who was something of a hermit and was only seen once or twice a year when he came down from the hills to pay his rent to the Lisburne Estate. He was most noted for wearing a coat which had been patched and repatched so many times that it was said none of the original material was left!

No specific management threats: the site is in unenclosed rough grazing land. Reed growth has colonised some parts of the complex.

Included as hafod place-name site by virtue of proximity of large earthwork enclosure nearby (PRN 35646). It is feasible that the settlement (not the present ruins) has origins as a medieval hafod associated with Strata Florida Abbey.

HAFOD EIDOS FOLD [\(35647\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN77346462** **A** **SAM** **Generic**
sheep fold

Part of SAM Cd179. This drystone fold is built inside the larger Hafod Eidos Earthwork. It measures 22m long x 7m wide and still stands over 1m high. The fold has two cells, the smallest only taking up the northern 3m of the length of the structure. Interpreted as a fold rather than a long hut, but the possibility that settlement has occurred here at an earlier phase should not be discounted. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land. Some reed growth has colonised the interior of the fold. No specific management threats.

BANC HAFOD EIDOS [\(35648\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN77546451** **C** **Generic**
shelter

Small cross-contour platform, 6 x 3m, at stream-side. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land with some reed growth obscuring the site. No specific management threats.

BLAEN MWYRO [\(35650\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN79356414** **C** **Generic**
Medieval platform

A bare platform, now reed covered, measuring 10 x 4m cut into foot of slope, sheltered from prevailing winds by hillock. 10m to South is a large 2 celled drystone sheepfold, in good condition (PRN 9335). The platform may have housed a shelter used by shepherds when the sheepfold was in use. Site not visited.

GLAN LLYN GORAST [\(35651\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN79146312** **C** **Generic**
Medieval sunken
shelter?

Sub-rectangular structure, 5 x 3m cut into gentle slope facing lake to East. Some stone revetment of sides. Probably an ancillary of PRN 35652. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land. Reed growth has colonised the interior. No specific management threats.

CORS MWYRO [\(35652\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN79096319** **B** **Generic**
Medieval long hut

Ruinous long hut. Rectilinear, drystone structure 12 x 6.5m, on a slight platform on a natural terrace at the edge of a large and hazardous bog. Evidence of possible internal partition into at least 2 cells. PRN's 35651 & 35653 are probably ancillaries to this structure. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land with some reed growth present. No specific management threats.

The long hut and Cors Mwyro behind. View from the east.

CORS MWYRO [\(35653\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN79066316** **B** **Generic**
SHELTER
Medieval shelter

Structure located 20m SW of PRN 35652 and similar to PRN 35651 in its characteristics. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land. Reed growth has colonised the interior. No specific management threats.

CORS MWYRO II [\(35654\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78936352** **B** **Generic**
Medieval long hut

Rectilinear drystone structure, measuring 10 x 6m. Stands on a slight platform overlooking the Mwyro valley. Now ruinous but some walls show good facing and quoin stones indicating a well built structure. The South wall has been repaired at some stage and refaced on the inside. Entrance in North wall. Walls up to 0.75m high x 1m wide. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land. Reed growth now surrounds the site. No specific management threats.

CORS MWYRO [\(35655\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78976374** **B** **Generic**
Medieval platform

A rectilinear earthwork, measuring 10 x 7m overall. Comprises a cross-contour platform, which measures only 6 x 3m, cut into slope, with vestiges of a drainage hood around its upper, positive half. No evidence of stonework or any structure on the platform. Site not visited. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land.

BLAEN MWYRO [\(35656\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78806404** **B** **Generic**
Medieval platform

Platform cut into gentle slope, measuring 8m x 5.7m, with spoil cast downslope. On a natural terrace at median altitude on southern side of Mwyro valley. May be ancillary to PRN 35658. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land. No specific management threats.

MWYRO UCHAF II [\(35657\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78776405** **B** **Generic**
Medieval sunken shelter

Unusual cut into slope which includes a drystone revetment/structure and may be ancillary to PRN 35658. The cut measures 10 x 3m and is up to 1.5m deep, opening out at downslope end. There is a perceptible widening of the cut at its South, upslope end. Inside the cut is the ruined base of a drystone structure or revetment wall which displays rough coursing. 5m to SW is a small platform, 5 x 4m with a large boulder at S. end. Situated in unenclosed rough grazing land. No specific management threats.



The sunken shelter, as seen from the north.

MWYRO UCHAF I [\(35658\)](#) **Medieval?;Post** **SN78756408** **B** **Generic**
Medieval long hut

Occupying the same terrace as PRNs 35656-7, but 40m West of the latter is a ruinous, drystone rectilinear structure. A 12m earth-banked enclosure is appended to the structure. A small sub-circular structure measuring 4.5 x 3m is also appended to the SW corner of the enclosure. The make-up of the building is interesting, in that its overall measurement of 21.75 x 6m includes a drystone structure measuring 16.75 x 6m, with a 5m long earthwork compartment attached to its South or upslope end. Traces of stone walling outside the East side of the structure may represent obscured associated features or even the wall line of an earlier building. The building stands on a slight cross-contour platform. It is situated in unenclosed rough grazing land with reed growth now surrounding much of the site. No specific management threats.

MWYRO UCHAF III **Medieval?;Post** **SN78646414** **B** **Generic**
[\(35659\)](#) **Medieval shelter**

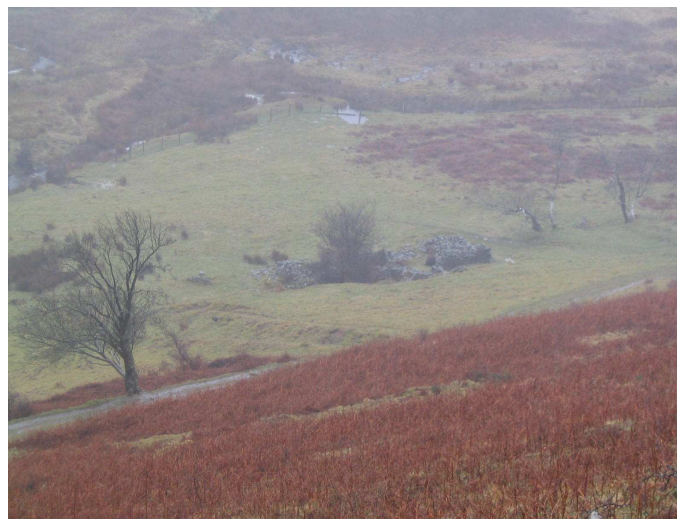
Small, elliptical stone and earth structure alongside a minor stream. Measures 5 x 3.75m and has a earth and stone bank running off it towards the stream bank. A deep pool in the stream is seen nearby. Unusually, there is no obvious entrance into the structure. May also be ancillary to PRN 35658. Reed growth now obscures the site. No specific management threats identified.

CARREG Y FFIN **Bronze Age?** **SN8086063620** **C** **Generic**
[\(36674\)](#) **boundary stone**

A stone noted by J Jones in 1982, probably marking the parish boundary. Site not visited.

TY-CLAWDD [\(55870\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN7157763508** **B** **Generic**
cottage

Ruinous cottage, with probable late eighteenth or early nineteenth century origins. The rubble walls are now in the process of collapse or as spread rubble. Comprises two units of roughly equal size (16m x 5m in all) with a pair of small stone built sheds (6m x 3m in all) behind to the west. Earth banks to the south mark the site of a garden and paddocks. The site lies within pasture. No management threats identified.



Looking down on the ruinous settlement of Ty-clawdd from the west.

[\(55872\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN7069763908** **C** **Generic**
building?

A square building is marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889) at this location. No visible traces of a building remain at this location. The specified location is in the corner of a pasture field.

[\(55873\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN7105963733** **C** **Generic**
pond

A rectangular pond, marked in outline on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. The pond is cut into a hillside with an earth dam wall (1.2m high x 1m wide) at the down slope end. The pond is dry and willow now obscures the site, the dam wall having been breached.

[\(55874\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN7115964723** **C** **Generic**
footbridge

A footbridge across the Afon Fflur is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. It no longer appears on current mapping. Site not visited.

LLETTY-GRUGIAR **Post Medieval** **SN5730369909** **B** **Generic**
[\(55876\)](#) **farmstead**

Deserted farmstead complex around a large square yard. Includes standing buildings in a layout unchanged since at least 1888 (OS 1st edition). Comprises the ruinous remains of stone, 2-storey gabled farmhouse with central doorway and two windows as centrepiece. In front, forming two sides of a yard are two substantial ranges; a roofless lofted carthouse/ granary and cartshed on the E and a substantially intact threshing barn/ stable hayloft on the W retaining evidence of drive shafts, fly wheels and barn machinery (threshing, winnowing etc.). The gearing of a horse gin lies outside to the north. The origins of the farmstead are uncertain. It is listed as a freeholding in 1760 (Wmffre 2004, 758). No specific management threats: the site is in a pasture field and surrounded by some mature trees.



The barn and stables at Lletty-grugiar

[\(55877\)](#) **Post Medieval well** **SN5767470030** **C** **Generic**

A well is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 (Cards sheet 15.05) Site not found. The area in question lies within dense vegetation (gorse and scrub).

[\(55879\)](#) **Post Medieval well** **SN5733069862** **C** **Generic**

Well associated with Lletty-Grugiar farmstead. Recorded on 1st edition OS map of 1888 (Cards sheet 15.09) Site not visited.

BRECHFA-UCHAF **Post Medieval** **SN6028560408** **B** **Generic**
[\(55882\)](#) **farmstead**

A small farmstead consisting of two buildings located at right angles to each other is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1890 (Cards sheet 20.14). There is no trace of it recorded on current OS mapping. (2005) No surface traces of the farmstead remain. The area in question falls between two pasture fields.

TALOG [\(55883\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN6021760756** **B** **Generic**
cottage

A ruinous roadside cottage recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1890. Cottage now in process of collapse: only rear wall survives to eaves height. Has a gable entry plan typical of early (ie. pre-19th century) construction. The roadside location and lack of land could indicate origins in squatter settlement. The site is fenced out. Some young trees are rooted in the walls.

CRUG GYNON [\(55884\)](#) **Prehistoric cist** **SN8030637** **U** **Generic**

An earthwork cist recorded by the RCAHMW in 1996. Poor accuracy as only 6 figure NGR given. Site not visited.

GARREGLWYD ([55885](#)) **Medieval? Post Medieval? deserted rural settlement** **SN7882064647 B** **Generic**

Ruined farmstead on S facing slope above the Afon Mwyro. Comprises of the ruinous gable end of a building overlying spread earthwork foundations of a possibly earlier long hut. The site lies within a pasture field. No management threats identified.



Garreglwyd former farmstead. View from south.

([55886](#)) **Unknown standing stone?** **SN80306370 U** **Generic**

Prone slab on summit of highly conspicuous outcrop. Slab measures c1.5m x 1.0m, and is lying on grass well removed from other outcrops and erratics and is apparently artificially placed. No farms in vicinity. Of uncertain date. Visited by T Driver RCAHMW, 03/09/2000 Site not visited.

([55887](#)) **Post Medieval sluice** **SN7186564462 C** **Generic**

A sluice is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 possibly part of water management features associated with Felin Fflur corn mill. Elements of the stone retaining wall remain.

([55888](#)) **Post Medieval footbridge** **SN7188564442 C** **Generic**

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map records a footbridge across the Afon Fflur at this point. The footbridge has been replaced by a modern vehicle bridge.

TY'N LLIDIART ([55889](#)) **Post Medieval cottage** **SN7187364406 B** **Generic**

A cottage and outbuilding lie to the SE of Hen Fynachlog as recorded by the Ordnance Survey in 1889. The name Henllys is now given to the cottage (outside farm boundary). Only the grassed over wall footings of Ty'n Llidiart remain in the corner of the field.

([56437](#)) **Medieval? Post Medieval? long hut?** **SN8030637 B** **Generic**

The remains of a possible sub-rectangular structure, banked on three sides (east, north and south) by an earth and stone bank. Measures 5m x 3m with walls up to 0.4m high. Alternatively a rectangular clearance cairn.

[\(56438\)](#)

**Unknown
cairnfield**

SN77366468 U

Generic

Area of circular or sub-circular clearance cairns between 2-5m in diameter. Full extent uncertain. Not accurately surveyed.



The cairns lie within unenclosed rough grazing land and are partially grassed over.

HAFOD EIDOS [\(56439\)](#)

**Post Medieval
storage clamp**

SN77466466 B

Generic

A linear cut 0.25m deep x 2m wide by 5m long approximately 10m NW of Hafod Eidos farmhouse. The site is in unenclosed rough grazing land. No specific management threats. Oral testimony in Ceredigion indicates that a clamp was prepared for root vegetable crops by simply excavating the cut and placing a thick layer of bracken in its base. A layer of potatoes would be placed over the bracken and then covered with more bracken. Several more alternating layers of potato and bracken could be added and then a final covering of earth was placed over the clamp to seal in the store.

BLAENMOIRODD
[\(56440\)](#)

**Post Medieval
cottage?**

SN78226480 B

Generic

Situated some 30m to the west of outbuilding? (PRN9334). The remains of a rectangular stone building (6m EW x 4m NS) the details of which have largely been obscured by demolition and the dumping of rubble. Site is named as Blannoierodd on the parish tithe survey. In stable pasture.

PEAT CUTTING [\(56442\)](#)

**Post Medieval peat
cutting**

SN7781164485 C

Generic

Area of peat bog, approximately 30m SE x 50m NW, formerly used for peat cutting. The ground level is reduced by some 0.3m where peat has been taken.

PEAT CUTTING [\(56443\)](#) Post Medieval peat SN7829264274 C
cutting

Generic

A rectangular peat cutting, approximately 20m EW x 30m NS and 0.3m deep.



PEAT CUTTING [\(56444\)](#) Post Medieval peat SN7825264213 C
cutting

Generic

Semi-circular shaped peat cutting, approximately 60m long, in a shallow slope. 0.8m maximum depth. Further peat cuttings exist to the south.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Ensure the survival of visible features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation by adopting sustainable farming practices.

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.
2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

Specific Management Requirements for individual archaeological and historic features.

The following individual sites and monuments are subject to specific management prescriptions which are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

Site 1 on MAP 1

HAFOD EIDOS EARTHWORK ([35646](#))

SN77346462

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

The enclosure is situated in unenclosed rough grazing land, largely pasture but with bracken and some rushes present. Stable grass cover predominates. Some reed growth has colonised the interior of the sheep fold.

A reduction in stocking levels has been suggested as part of the Tir Gofal management plan.

The aim within Tir Gofal is the continued sensitive management of the monument. The following management recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

- Monitor the condition of the monument. Consider scrub/ bracken control if its condition worsens by cutting vegetation close to ground level then removing debris from the site.

Please note: any works, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding, or covering up a monument must have scheduled monument consent, e.g. infilling of erosion, fencing, ploughing. Cutting of vegetation does not require scheduled monument consent.

Site 2 on MAP 1

FFYNNON-WEN ([55878](#))

SN5776170217

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

The management aim within Tir Gofal is to prevent damage by vegetation to the standing remains. The following recommendations apply.

- Monitor mature trees close to the structure. Consider felling mature trees which are at risk of windthrow.
- Consider cutting or spraying back vegetation on the walls, leaving the roots *in situ*. Spot treat to prevent re-growth.
- Work should only be undertaken if it is considered safe to do so.

Site 3 on MAP 1

([56445](#))

SN57577005

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

Future management should aim to reduce the impact of agricultural practices to the earthwork. Ploughing operations would continue to erode the profile of the earthwork and disturb below ground remains. The following management recommendations apply:

- ideally cultivation should be ceased in this field in future.

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
MAES-ALWAD (55871)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7082463969	B		Generic
<p>Working farmstead comprising a traditional stone farmhouse and outbuildings centred on a rectangular yard in a typical nineteenth century layout recorded on the OS 1st edition map of 1889. Flanking the house are two parallel ranges of outbuildings. On one side a lofted granary, on the other cow sheds with a range of further ?cow sheds behind both now modified. A separate ?threshing barn to the west (it is marked with a circular feature, possibly a horse gin, on the 1st edition map) has been destroyed. Modern sheds lie behind and to the south of the historic core.</p> <p>The buildings are generally in good order. Changes in farming practice has seen changes to the buildings and corrugated tin has been used as a substitute for slate in part. The house has been modernised with concrete render and modern windows.</p>					
HEN FYNACHLOG; OLD ABBEY FARM (55875)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7180664688	B		Generic
<p>Working farmstead, formerly belonging to the Lisburne Estate. Comprises an L-plan stone built farmhouse and an extensive and well ordered range of outbuildings positioned around a large rectangular yard. The current layout is basically unchanged from that shown on the OS 1st edition (1889).</p> <p>Comprises a large later nineteenth century range of cow sheds with fold yard to the north, and substantial L-plan range on the east incorporating lofted stables, cart sheds and threshing barn. At least two phases of construction are present. Other buildings to the E marked on OS 1st edition have been replaced by modern sheds.</p> <p>The farmstead retains good historic character despite some modifications. Buildings are well maintained. The farmstead takes its name from Hen Fynachlog the original site of Strata Florida Abbey, believed to lie across the river to the SW.</p>					



The main range at Hen Fynachlog.

LLETTY-GRUGIAR
([55876](#))

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN5730369909 B

Generic

Deserted farmstead complex around a large square yard. Includes standing buildings in a layout unchanged since at least 1888 (OS 1st edition). Comprises the ruinous remains of stone, 2-storey gabled farmhouse with central doorway and two windows as centrepiece. In front, forming two sides of a yard are two substantial ranges; a roofless lofted carthouse/ granary and cartshed on the E and a substantially intact threshing barn/ stable hayloft on the W retaining evidence of drive shafts, fly wheels and barn machinery (threshing, winnowing etc.). The gearing of a horse gin lies outside to the north. The origins of the farmstead are uncertain. It is listed as a freeholding in 1760 (Wmffre 2004, 758).

No specific management threats: the site is in a pasture field and surrounded by some mature trees.

BRECHFA-ISAF ([55880](#))

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN6021660425 B

Generic

A redundant though substantially intact farmstead of historic character situated on high ground above the Afon Gwenffrwd. It comprises a stone built 2 storey farmhouse with 2 gable chimneys of "typical" 19th century character and several outbuildings laid out in front (to the NE) to define a yard. They include a derelict and much modified threshing barn range, with elements of clom (earth walled) construction, a lofted cart shed opposite and a late 19th/early 20th century cow shed of exceptional preservation, unusually intact when so many similar examples have been modified. Also several smaller buildings of less specific function. The farmstead is depicted in its current layout on the OS 2nd edition of 1905.



Elements of clom construction remain at Brechfa-Isaf

GARREGLLWYD
[\(56441\)](#)

Post Medieval
farmstead

SN78866461

Generic

Farmstead complex recorded on the Ordnance Survey Old Series Map of 1834. The historic elements now comprise solely of the partial remains of a lofted cowshed, and farmhouse, rebuilt in part as modern outbuildings and with limited historic character remaining.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

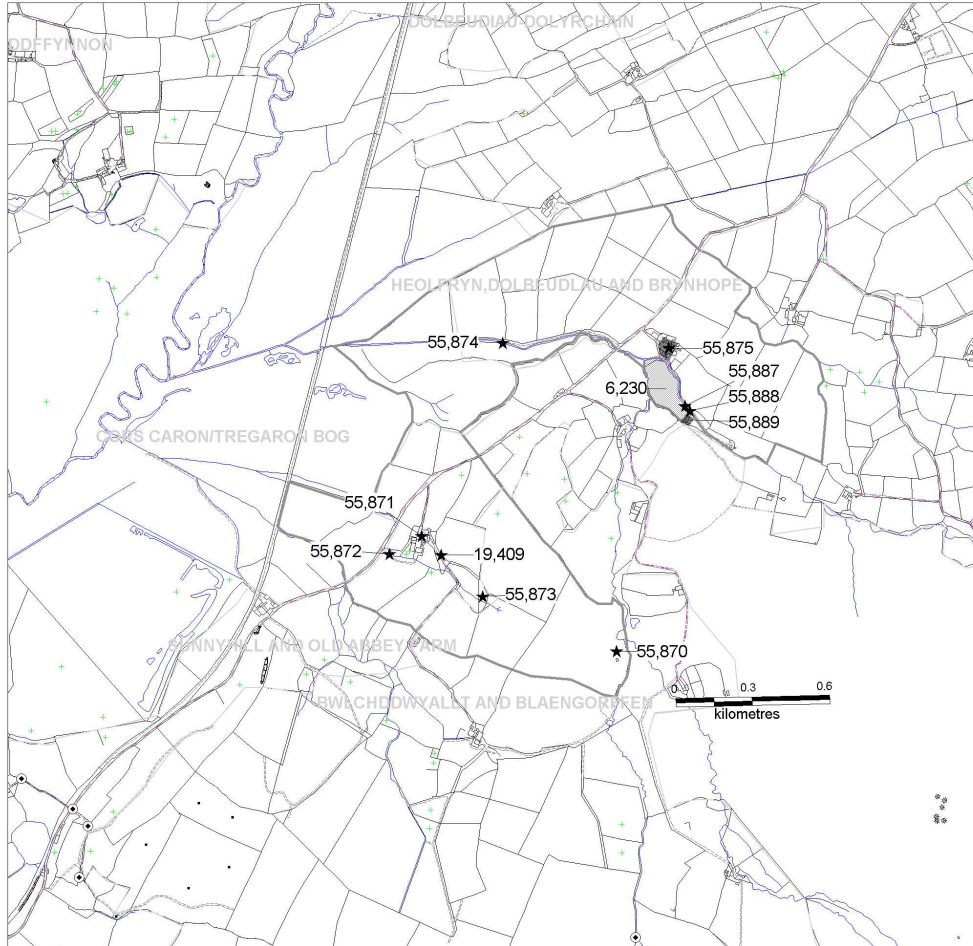
- 27/05/2006 (11:48:39) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology
Project record number 54241.
Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.
tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email cambria@cambria.org.uk, website
www.cambria.org.uk

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

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Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 21.01, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 21.01, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1889 Cardiganshire Sheet 21.02, 25"
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Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 22.05, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1889 Cardiganshire Sheet 26.02, 25"
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 26.02, 25"
Tithe Map & Apt. 1842? Caron Parish

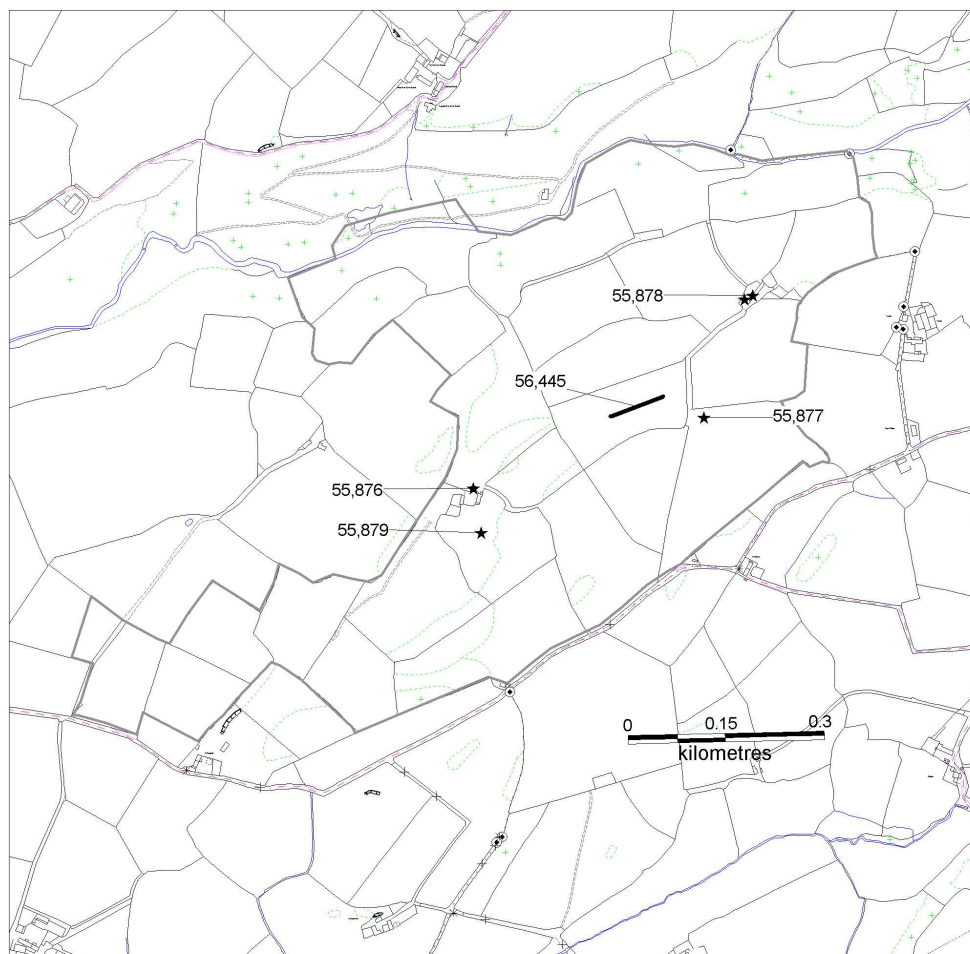
Hen Fynachlog W115538



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

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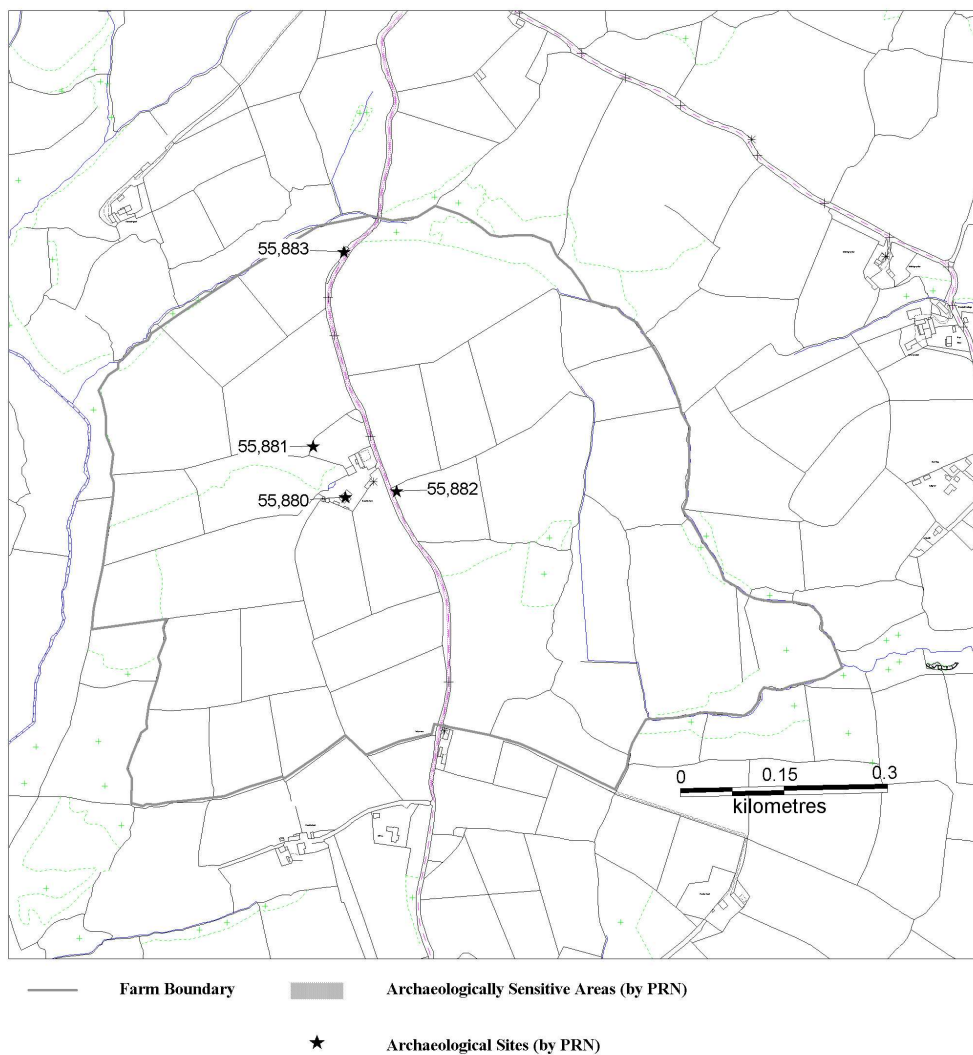
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- Farm Boundary
- Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)
- ★ Archaeological Sites (by PRN)

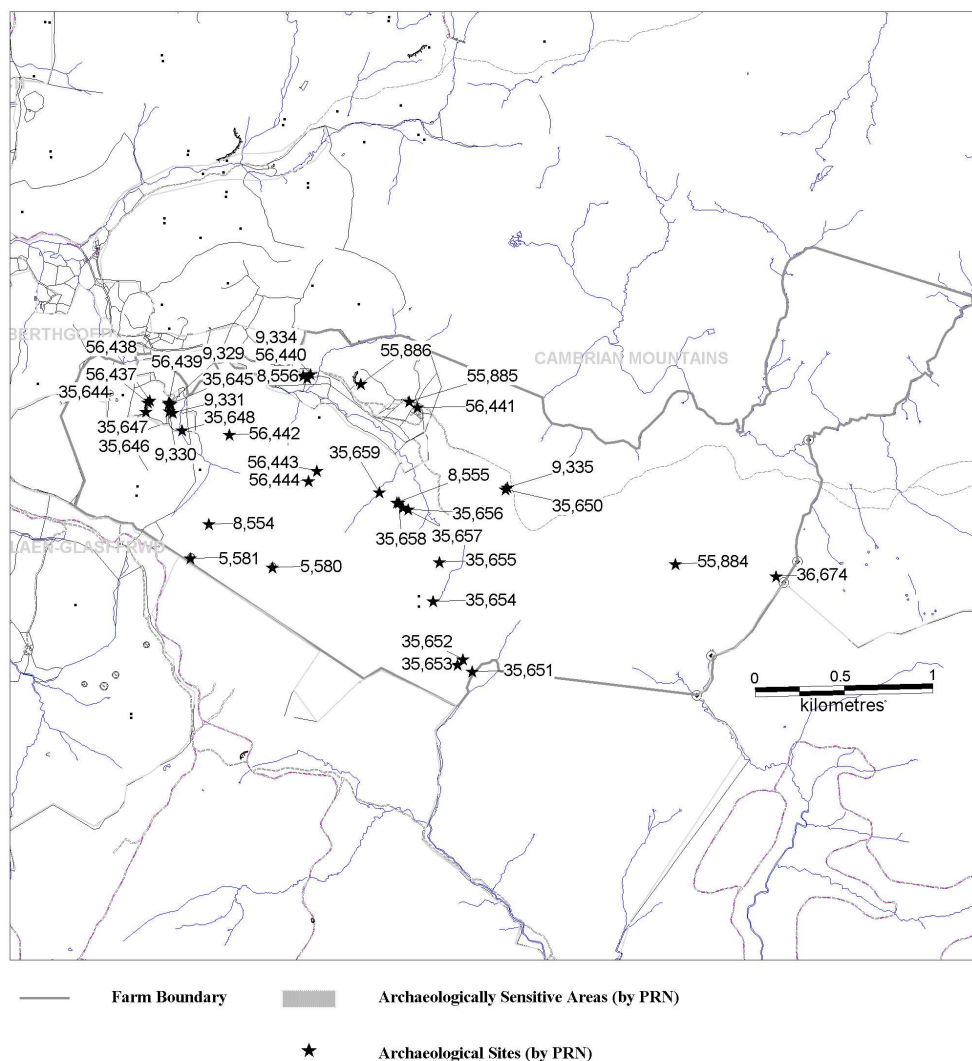
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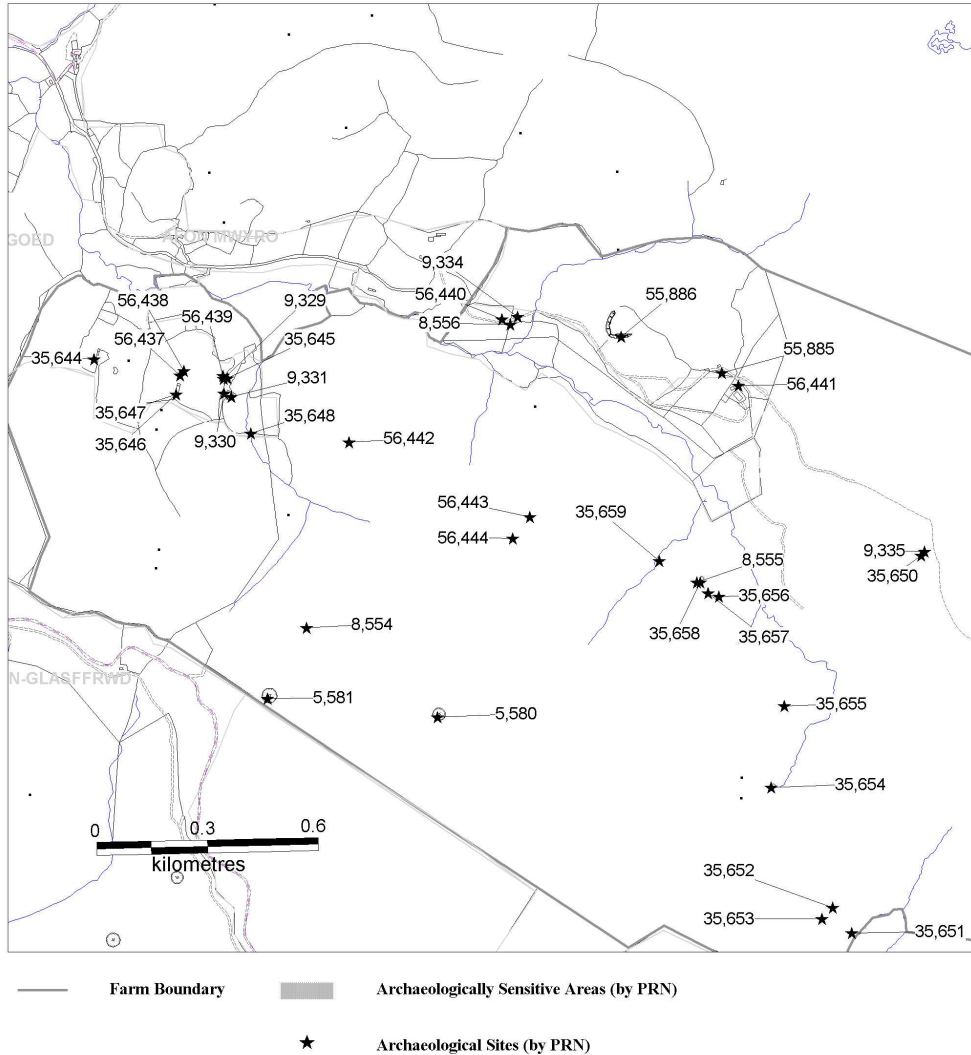
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UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 1 CORS CARON/TREGARON BOG

GRID REFERENCE: SN 696640

AREA IN HECTARES: 1067

Historical background

In the Medieval Period the area of Cors Caron was divided between Strata Florida's granges of Penardd, Blaenaeron and Mefenydd. Its history following the dissolution is uncertain, but its unenclosed character probably ensured that it was claimed by the Crown. In all periods, Cors Caron has been a source of peat, and provided opportunities for wild-fowling, summer pasture and gathering hay. Peat cutting has been concentrated where the bog runs close to Tregaron. In the years following WW1 mechanical peat cutting was undertaken, but this was short-lived (Countryside Council for Wales 1995). The Milford and Manchester Railway, opened in 1866 and closed in 1964, crosses the bog from south to north. The bog has never been enclosed. Its importance for the historic landscape lies in its record of vegetational history and climate change contained within the peat deposits (see Turner 1964). It is now designated a Nature Reserve.

Description and essential historic landscape components

An area of open raised bog covering over 1000 hectares at approximately 165m. The River Teifi runs down the centre of the area from north to south. There are several open pools of water on the bog; some of these are artificially maintained. There is surface evidence for past peat cutting, particularly at the southern end close to Tregaron. Some old boundaries are evident on the southern and northern boundaries of the bog, and there is some encroachment of woodland on the northeast side. Apart from these, the entire area is bog.

Recorded archaeology includes the post-Medieval bridge of Pont Einon and a possible Medieval trackway and an Iron Age bog burial, the exact location of which is unknown.

Cors Caron is well defined on all boundaries, but particularly so on the western and eastern sides where the ground rises steeply onto improved pasture.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 15 CAMBRIAN MOUNTAINS

GRID REFERENCE: SN 879665

AREA IN HECTARES: 298840

Historic Background

This very large area of high upland straddles the Ceredigion-Powys county boundary. The largest proportion lies within Powys, and, as this is outside the study area, has not been examined in detail. Historically the largest part of this area lay within Strata Florida's granges of Pennardd, Mefenydd, Cwmteuddwr and Cwmystwyth (Williams 1990, 56-57). By the end of the Medieval Period, and perhaps earlier, the granges had been separated into farms, leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. It is uncertain how the upland sections of the granges would have functioned. Parts of the upland fringes undoubtedly comprised farms - a document of 1545-50 (Morgan 1991, 5-7) names farms now abandoned in an upland situation - but presumably most upland served as rough pasture, perhaps used on a seasonal basis. Williams (1990, 59) cites a document that indicates transhumance in Mefenydd Grange. Other monastic uses included peat cutting and a fishery in the Teifi Pools. It is likely that on the dissolution the Crown would have claimed unenclosed land, with farmed land first leased and later purchased by incipient estates, notable in this area were Crosswood and Powis Castle estates. Land acquired by the latter in and around Cwmystwyth eventually formed the Hafod estate. These estates were eager to increase the extent of their holdings, and engaged in the illegal enclosure of unenclosed Crown land, a process that was at its most active in the late 18th- and early 19th-centuries. Legal means were also employed. Enclosure Acts were sponsored. The two within this area, Gwnnws of 1815 and Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn of 1866 (Chapman 1992, 50, 53), included vast tracts of upland, as did an 1815 proposed act for the area of Teifi Pools (NLW Crosswood 347), but their physical effect on the landscape was minimal. In the 20th century, land improvement hand in hand with enclosure has nibbled away at waste and moorland. It was by these legal and illegal means that the limits of unenclosed land were rolled back to their present extensive, but in historic terms relatively modest, extents. Crossing the area are several important trans-mountain natural route-ways linking farming communities and the markets of Ceredigion with lands and towns to the east. These trans-mountain route-ways are most celebrated for their use by drovers in the historical period, but they are likely to be of great antiquity. They not only provided communication across the Cambrian mountain chain, but allowed access onto the high moorland for the establishment of permanent or seasonal settlement, for the grazing of animals and for peat cutting. The route-way from Cwmystwyth to the east to Rhayader and beyond was converted to a turnpike in 1770 (Colyer 1984, 176-82), but was superseded by the opening of a new turnpike (the current A44) to the north in 1812.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This is a very large upland area. It achieves peaks of over 500m, is on average approximately 400m high and rarely falls below 300m. Craggy outcrops on some of the higher summits and around Llyn Teifi provide much needed drama in an otherwise drab and monotonous landscape. Unimproved very rough grazing dominates with blanket bog at higher levels and peaty deposits in most hollows and valleys. There is some improved grazing, mostly on lower slopes where occasional wire fences divide the area. There are a few widely dispersed farms, in particular on the Powys side of the border. These are traditionally stone built, surrounded by a collection of modern farm buildings, and situated within a system of a few fields whose boundaries consisted of earth banks, but where wire fences now provide the stock-proof barriers. The fields attached to these farms now comprise improved pasture, and there are further blocks of unenclosed improved pasture close by. This is a treeless landscape. Overall this is a landscape of unenclosed moorland.

Recorded archaeology is only described here and shown on the accompanying maps for the Ceredigion portion of this area. Archaeology adds greater time-depth to the landscape. Numerous Bronze Age round barrows and a standing stone suggest occupation within this area even at high levels, though no settlement sites are known. However, post-Medieval settlement sites and other sites of the period such as folds, enclosures, shelters and field systems indicate that the lower-lying fringes of this area were occupied, through to the 19th century. Metal mining remains are also present.

This is a very well-defined area and is either bordered by large blocks of upland forestry (areas 3, 5, 6, 7), or by lower-lying enclosed and settled land (for example areas 17, 34, 44, 70, 83).

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 27 SUNNYHILL AND OLD ABBEY FARM

GRID REFERENCE: SN 692628

AREA IN HECTARES: 425.4

Historic Background

In the Medieval Period, the largest part of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). There is a tradition that the original abbey site lay within this area at Yr Hen Fynachlog Farm (Radford 1971); substantial foundations were uncovered here in the 19th century (Williams 1889). As with most of Strata Florida's other granges it is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, Pennardd was probably divided into many farms which were leased out and farmed on a commercial basis. Therefore the settlement pattern of this area may be quite ancient. At the dissolution, Strata Florida's lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, with the demesne land acquired by John Stedman. In 1630, the Vaughan family of Crosswood purchased much of the former grange land. In 1746, Stedman lands passed into the Nanteos estate. Sunnyside in the 18th century was the residence of the Powell family of Nanteos for several decades (Rees 1936, 61), and a former garden here is included on the Welsh Historic Gardens Database for Cardiganshire (RCAHMW, Welsh Historic Gardens Database). The layout of the garden is shown on a 1819 estate map. A water mill was recorded at Maes-llyn in 1682 (Rees 1936, 60). Historic map evidence (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1845; NLW Crosswood Vol, 1 8, 12, 14, 16, 20; NLW Crosswood Vol 2, 3; NLW Vol 45, 54; NLW Vol 36, 147) of the late 18th- and early 19th-century demonstrate that the modern landscape of this landscape area had by then already been established. The settlement pattern, field systems and woodland areas have hardly changed since the compilation of these maps.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area comprises a strip of flat ground on the east side of Cors Caron and the lower, northwest-facing valley sides. It lies between 165m and 200m. Agricultural land is now mostly improved pasture, though there are patches of rougher grazing and rushy ground in hollows close to Cors Caron. The overall characteristic is of small, irregular fields and dispersed farms with deciduous woodland on the steeper valley sides. Boundaries consist of earth banks with hedges. Hedges are generally in good condition and are stock-proof, though in the southern part of the area and on the higher slopes they are becoming derelict and have been replaced with wire fences. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Older traditional buildings are stone built with slate roofs. Modern buildings are rendered concrete with slate or concrete tile. Most farms are surrounded by a suite of modern farm buildings. Included in this area is the listed 19th century farmhouse of Maes-llyn. This area is within a route corridor. A disused railway runs through the area from south to north. The present B4363 follows the eastern side of Cors Caron linking the medieval settlements and fairs of Pontryhdfendigaid, Ffair Rhos, Ystbyty Ystwyth and Machynlleth to the north with those of Tregaron, Llanddewi Breifi and Lampeter to the south.

Recorded archaeology mostly comprises sites of post-Medieval date and includes a chapel and Sunday school as well as several dwellings and two minor metal mines. The possible former site of Strata Florida Abbey is included on the record as well as a documentary source to a Medieval settlement at Treflyn.

Boundaries of this area are well defined. Cors Caron (area 1) lies to the west and the larger enclosures on higher ground of area 28 to the east, with unenclosed land (area 13) in the northeast corner. Regular enclosures of area 28 lie to the north. Only on the southern boundary at the junction of area 25 is there uncertainty where the exact boundary should be drawn.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 28 BWLCHDDWYALLT AND BLAENGORFFEN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 704621

AREA IN HECTARES: 621.8

Historic Background

In the Medieval Period, most of this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). Towards the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, the grange would have been divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis (Rees 1936, 58). On the dissolution most of the abbey lands were granted to the Earl of Essex and were subsequently purchased, in 1630, by the Crosswood estate. Demesne land was acquired by John Stedman, which in 1746 passed to the Nanteos estate. The pattern of dispersed farms is therefore likely to date to at least the end of the Medieval Period, and was maintained by later estate owners. It was certainly established by the mid 19th-century - dispersed farms surrounded by small irregular enclosures set amongst large enclosures are shown on the 1845 tithe map (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment). Early estate maps demonstrate that the process of enclosure was still underway in the early 19th-century. For instance the ridge to the southeast of Sunnyhill (NLW Vol 45, 54, 66, 68) is shown as unenclosed sleep-walk with a scatter of small, isolated fields in different ownership - possible squatter settlements? - and Bwlchddwyallt farm (NLW Crosswood 332; NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 14) is shown as an isolated farm surrounded by five small fields set in unenclosed land.

Description and essential historic landscape components

A southwest to northeast aligned ridge rising from 200m on the northwest-facing slopes to a maximum of 346m. Slopes are generally steep. Virtually the whole of the agricultural land of the area including the ridge summits is improved pasture, though strips of rough grazing lie on steep slopes and rushy ground in some hollows. Stands of deciduous woodland exist on some of the steep slopes and as clumps scattered across the area. This combination of scattered woodland and improved pasture lends an (misleading) impression of unenclosed 18th century park-land. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms; these sit in a field system of large, irregularly-shaped enclosures, with smaller fields surrounding the farmsteads. Old boundaries are of earth banks topped by hedges, but these are now generally redundant. Hedges are now stock-proof only on lower levels; elsewhere they are either derelict or non-existent and have been replaced by wire fences. New wire fences also demarcate some new large enclosures.

There is little recorded archaeology in this area. However, a major site, Castell Tregaron, an Iron Age hillfort is present, and further time-depth to the landscape is provided by finds of Bronze Age date.

Boundaries of this area are well defined. To the east lies unenclosed land (area 13) and to the south, west and north are lower lying areas characterised by small, irregular enclosures (areas 27, 29, 111).

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 30 HEOLFRYN, DOLBEUDLAU AND BRYNHOPE

GRID REFERENCE: SN 723660

AREA IN HECTARES: 325.8

Historic Background

In the Medieval Period, this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange (Williams 1990, 56). On the dissolution abbey lands were granted to the Earl of Essex, and subsequently in 1630 most were purchased by the Crosswood estate. The historical processes behind the development of the field system in this area are well documented. It would seem that down to the 18th century much of the land in this area was open, as two late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Vol 1, 6, 8) show it as a mixture of open land and very large enclosures, with small closes or paddocks around the farmsteads of Dolbeudiau, Brynhope and Dolyrychain. By the tithe survey of 1845 (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment) the regular field system that is present today had been established. The origin of the settlement pattern of dispersed farms is more problematic. It may well have originated in the late Medieval Period when Pennardd Grange, in common with other granges of Strata Florida, was divided into farms and leased out on a commercial basis.

Description and essential historic landscape components

A block of gently undulating ground including low craggy ridges ranging in height from 170m to 220m located to the south and west of Pontrhydfendiad. Much of the higher ground is improved pasture, but there are considerable tracts of rough pasture and rushy ground at lower levels. Peat deposits are present in some hollows. The field system here is one of regular, small- to medium-sized fields. Boundaries are straight and consist of low earth banks topped with wire fences. Some hedges are present on the banks, but mostly in a derelict condition except in the northern part of the area and close to farmsteads where they are generally still stock-proof. Boundaries on low lying ground in hollows consist of drainage ditches. Traditional buildings are of stone with slate roofs, modern structures are of rendered concrete block and concrete tiles.

As well as including a Sunday school, post-Medieval dwellings and two minor metal mines, the recorded archaeology provides a time-depth element to the landscape in the form of an Iron Age hillfort, and a rectangular earthwork enclosure which may be of Roman date.

Apart from where the area joins the village of Pontrhydfendiad, the borders are not particularly well-defined, merging on all sides with the irregular field systems of area 27, 37, 118 and 105.

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 117 AFON MWYRO

GRID REFERENCE: SN 774650

AREA IN HECTARES: 74.4

Historic Background

In the Medieval Period this area lay within Strata Florida Abbey's Pennardd Grange, perhaps as part of the abbey demesne. The granges were granted to the Earl of Essex on the dissolution, who sold them to the Crosswood estate in 1630. In the late 18th-century some land in this area was in the possession of Crosswood, and may have been obtained by this route. Abbey demesne was acquired by John Stedman in 1567. However, Richard Stedman died intestate in 1746 and the estate passed to the Powells of Nanteos. Nanteos had considerable holdings here in the 19th century. It is likely that by the end of the Medieval Period, if not earlier, abbey granges and demesne were divided into farms which were leased out on a commercial basis. This may have been the origin of the settlement pattern we see today. Later history is unresearched, however, the tithe map (Caron Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1845) for this area shows a settlement pattern very similar to that of today. By 1845 enclosures had been established on the valley floors and in pockets around the farmsteads. This system of small enclosures was to expand during the 19th century to achieve its present form. Population achieved levels in the early 20th century to support the construction of a chapel/school-room in 1905 (Percival 1998, 520). Since then there has been a general decline in population.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The valley floor and lower valley slopes of the Afon Mwyro, ranging in height from 210m at the west end to 370m at the edge of enclosed land on the valley sides. Small enclosures on the valley floor generally give way to unenclosed moorland/sleep-walk at the break of slope, though in the area of Tyncwm and Berthgoed farms enclosed land runs up and over low spurs. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms, with homesteads and a disused chapel located on low spurs and the lower valley sides. Boundaries comprise dry-stone walls with some rubble banks. Hedges, where present, are derelict, and most of the boundaries are supplemented with wire fences. Improved grazing is present in most of the enclosures on the valley floor, but tending to rougher pasture on the lower slopes. Bracken covers some steeper slopes. There are some peaty hollows. Scattered stands of trees in the vicinity of the old chapel and upstream provide an impression of a moderately wooded landscape. Buildings are of stone with slate roofs.

Recorded archaeology reflects the decline in population in this area throughout the 20th century, and consists almost entirely of deserted cottages and other settlement sites.

To the west this area merges with the enclosed valley floor landscape character area 118. On all other sides there is a distinct boundary between this area and unenclosed land (areas 15, 119).