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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Gorsto Farm**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/5639**

**ACA Report No. 2006/60
Project Record No. 54255
Prepared by Alice Pyper**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Gorsto farm lies on the edge of Brynamman in Carmarthenshire in the community of Quater Bach.

The holding lies on the north facing slopes above the river Amman, overlooking Brynamman and with the expanse of Gwauncaegurwen moorland to the south. This area has seen enormous change and transformation in the post medieval period. In the early 18th century the Amman valley appears to have been an impoverished area, based on agriculture. However, the 1831 Ordnance Survey map indicates that although this area was still relatively undeveloped, with an appearance of a largely agricultural landscape, there was embryonic evidence of industry; Pant-y-celyn colliery had been established to the west of the farm.

A picture of massive industrial development is portrayed by the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 which shows rapid industrialisation encroaching on the open moorland of Gwauncaegurwen and the enclosed farmland on the valley slopes. Both coal and ironstone were important deposits in the 19th century and by the 1830-40 exploitation of mineral reserves had begun in earnest with an attempt to form a mining district. The mineral rights were bought by a Mr Llewellyn in 1847 whose portfolio of properties included Gorsto Farm (Morgan, 1997, 13).

The 20th century saw further exploitation of Gwauncaegurwen with a large area subject to open cast mining, and subsequent land restoration. Gorsto farm is effectively divided into the higher ground to the south which has been subject to the excavation and land restoration and that around and below the farmstead which retains some agricultural field boundaries and the remains of earlier spoil tips.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

The recorded archaeology of this area is dominated by late Post Medieval industrial activity. However, prior to the establishment of coal mines and iron foundries in the 18th/19th century this area would have been a small farm holding around the farmstead of Gorsto (PRN 56315) on the edge of open grazing land. The date for the establishment of the farmstead is unclear but it was in place by the time of the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The farmhouse and combination farm building are evidently 19th century and are testament to the survival of agricultural holdings at a time when industry was bearing down on properties from every side.

Coal mining and iron ore extraction had already been established and had expanded into this farm holding with spoil tips (PRN 56316), air shafts and buildings covering the southern part of the holding. Trackways and railways are also part of the industrial landscape with a small section of a branch of the Swansea Vale railway crossing

through the northwest of the holding. Cwm-Teg colliery (PRN 56313) had been established to the north-east, expanding into this holding in the late 19th/early 20th century. The spoil tips of this colliery encroach onto the holding and remains of industrial buildings are evident below the tips (PRN).

Coal and ironstone mining is a major historical characteristic of this area which dramatically changed the rural landscape in the 18th and 19th century, a process which continued into the 20th century when a swathe of Gwauncaegurwen mountain was excavated for anthracite. This has resulted in the loss of some of the sites identified on the historic mapping including a number cottages (PRNs 56317-20).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority for this farm is to retain evidence of the Post Medieval industrial landscape that forms such an important part of the historic character for this area.

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
CWM-TEG COLLIERY <u>(56313)</u>	Post Medieval; Modern coal mine	SN7223213899	B	Generic
<p>A coal mine marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. Buildings were situated on either side of the Amman river, with tramways on the north side giving access to the main Swansea Vale railway line and spoil tips on the south side of the river. The complex had expanded by the time of the 3rd edition map in 1918.</p> <p>The site has now closed down, aerial photographs showing the area covered in trees. When visited in 2006 the spoil tips above the River Amman intact, the slopes were shrouded in trees and the top was choked with scrub including dense bramble and gorse.</p> <p>The line of the tramway, visible on the 1918 Ordnance Survey map, could not be identified due to the difficulty in gaining access through the vegetation to the eastern edge of the spoil tip. However, site of a building was identified at the bottom of the southern slope, see PRN 56317. <i>Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)</i></p>				
<u>(56314)</u>	Post Medieval;Modern railway	SN7172413969	C	Generic
<p>A branch of the Swansea Vale railway diverts from the main line to the Amman Works. This section survives as a large earthwork embankment which has become rather overgrown on the side, but the line of the track itself is grassed over. <i>Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)</i></p>				



A branch of the Swansea Vale railway which crosses through Gorsto Farm

GORSTO (56315)

**Post Medieval
farmstead**

SN7200913759 B

Generic

A small farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The Ordnance Survey map of 1906 shows the farmstead layout established in its current form with the farmhouse and combination farm building (PRN 56318) lying on either side of the farmyard. A third range of outbuildings on the north side of the farmyard must post-date the production of the Ordnance Survey map of 1918 (Carmarthenshire sheet 49.03). A further pitched roofed tin/wood/corrugated asbestos shed lies to the south of the farmhouse and farmyard entrance. The owner relates that this shed was once a cobblers workshop and was relocated to its current site.

To the northeast farmstead is the remains of a trackway leading to the fields to the east of the farmstead. A number of large stones have been used to make up the level the trackway on this southfacing slope. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. *Visited* 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)



A view of Gorsto Farm from the northeast

(56316)

**Post Medieval;
Modern spoil tip**

SN7197813640 C

Generic

The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 shows a large area on the edge of Gwauncaegurwen consisting of spoil tips, trackways, tramways, shafts and mine buildings. Much of this has since been removed and relandscaped following open casting operations in the area. To the southeast of Gorsto farmstead is an area of spoil tipping resulting from earlier iron ore extraction. The spoil tips are wooded on the tip sides with gorse bushes established on the top of the slopes. Further trial pits have been identified by the current owner (PRN 56613). *Visited* 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)



A view of the iron ore spoil tip from the south looking towards the Black Mountain

(56317) **Post Medieval** **SN7191913552 D** **Generic**
 cottage

Marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 is a small cottage within a rectangular enclosure lay on the very edge of the enclosed land, below the open moorland of Gwauncaegurwen. Two other cottages and enclosures of similar proportions lay to the east (PRNs 56318, 56319). These cottages may represent squatter settlements which encroached onto unenclosed land in the 18th and 19th centuries, however at this time they may have housed industrial workers employed in the various iron, coal and brickwork industries.

The site of this cottage has been subject to open casting operations and subsequent landscaping resulting in the complete removal of this building and its environs. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56318) **Post Medieval** **SN7199513500 D** **Generic**
 cottage

Marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 is a small cottage within a rectangular enclosure lay on the very edge of the enclosed land, below the open moorland of Gwauncaegurwen. Two other cottages and enclosures of similar proportions lay to either side (PRNs 56317, 56319). These cottages may represent squatter settlements which encroached onto unenclosed land in the 18th and 19th centuries, however at this time they may have housed industrial workers employed in the various iron, coal and brickwork industries.

The site of this cottage has been subject to open casting operations and subsequent landscaping resulting in the complete removal of this building and its environs. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56319) **Post Medieval** **SN7201913485 D** **Generic**
 cottage

Marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 is a small cottage within a rectangular enclosure lay on the very edge of the enclosed land, below the open moorland of Gwauncaegurwen. Two other cottages and enclosures of similar proportions lay to the west (PRNs 56317, 56318). These cottages may represent squatter settlements which encroached onto unenclosed land in the 18th and 19th centuries, however at this time they may have housed industrial workers employed in the various iron, coal and brickwork industries.

The site of this cottage has been subject to open casting operations and subsequent landscaping resulting in the complete removal of this building and its environs. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56320) **Post Medieval** **SN7225613685 D** **Generic**
 cottage

A small cottage near Cwm-Teg colliery (PRN 56313) and an associated well (PRN 56312) within an irregular enclosure, marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. May represent a small holding or, at a time of encroaching industry, may have housed industrial workers.

The site of this cottage has been subject to open casting operations and subsequent landscaping resulting in

the complete removal of this building and its environs. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56321)

Post Medieval well SN7225513670 C

Generic

A well marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906, presumably providing water for the adjacent cottage (PRN 56320).

The site of this well has been subject to open casting operations and subsequent landscaping, resulting in its complete removal. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56613)

**Post Medieval SN7205413661 C
level; trial mine**

Generic

The owner of Gorsto farm identified a small trial pit cut into the iron ore spoil tip (PRN 56316). It is now partially silted up with a depth of about 1.75 m. Lying within the wooded slopes of the spoil tips, the trial pit has readily seeded with trees on its sloping sides. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

(56614)

**Post Medieval SN7217513905 B
building**

Generic

A building is shown in this location on the 2nd & 3rd edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1906 & 1918, lying on the north side of the river Amman.

When visited in 2006 the river appears to have shifted its course further to the north and the remains of this building can now be traced on the south side of the river. The remains of the building consist of rubble masonry up to 0.4m high with trees growing from the wall tops. The dimensions of the building on its longest axis are approximately 8 metres east southeast - west northwest. Bricks also lie scattered about in this area. Only the southern and western walls were identified on the visit, no traces of the other walls were observed. The historic maps show that the building was located between the river Amman and the Swansea Vale railway at the western extent of the Cwm-teg colliery complex. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The remains of a colliery building associated with the Cwm-teg complex.

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
GORSTO (<u>56315</u>)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7200913759	B	Generic

A small farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The Ordnance Survey map of 1906 shows the farmstead layout established in its current form with the farmhouse and combination farm building (PRN 56318) lying on either side of the farmyard. A third range of outbuildings on the north side of the farmyard must post-date the production of the Ordnance Survey map of 1918 (Carmarthenshire sheet 49.03). A further pitched roofed tin/wood/corrugated asbestos shed lies to the south of the farmhouse and farmyard entrance. The owner relates that this shed was once a cobblers workshop and was relocated to its current site.

To the northeast farmstead is the remains of a trackway leading to the fields to the east of the farmstead. A

number of large stones have been used to make up the level the trackway on this southfacing slope. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*

GORSTO (56615)

**Post Medieval
combination farm
building**

SN7202713741 B

Generic

A long range combination farm building lies on the eastern side of the farmstead complex of Gorsto farm. The building lies at right angles to the slope with the southern gable end set into the hillside. It is largely constructed in stone rubble, except for the southern section which is a later addition to full height in brick. The pitched roof is covered in slate. At the lower, northern end is the barn with opposing double doorways. Outside the eastern doorway are the remains of a driveshaft and other items of barn machinery. The interior of the barn is open to the roof.

The southern section of the building has a granary loft (the first floor is constructed with reinforced concrete) with ventilation slits on the west side only, beneath is the cow shed formerly accessed by four equally spaced doorways, the central two have been half blocked. Internally are concrete and metal cow stalls positioned in a single row on the long axis of the building, providing accommodation for 5 pairs of beasts.

The southern end of the building, a later addition in brick, is also two storey with access to the 1st floor from external steps at the gable end. This section was not inspected internally. On the east side of the barn is tin barn at right angles to the stone barn. This is in a somewhat dilapidated state. It encloses double loading doors which lead directly into the 1st floor of the barn.

A stone lined and capped culvert running parallel to the east side of the barn can be observed adjacent to these double loading doors.

Attached to the far northern end of the barn is a ruinous pigsty with yard fronting to the west.

The barn is in a fair condition largely, although the pigsty at the northern end is rather overgrown. *Visited 12/05/2006 (Alice Pyper)*



The east side of the combination farm building at Gorsto – the barn end and pigsty attached



The west side of the combination farm building, showing the 20th century brick extension

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

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

Sources consulted:

Cambria Archaeology Historic Environment Record

Ordnance Survey 1831 Old Series 1" map, No.XLI

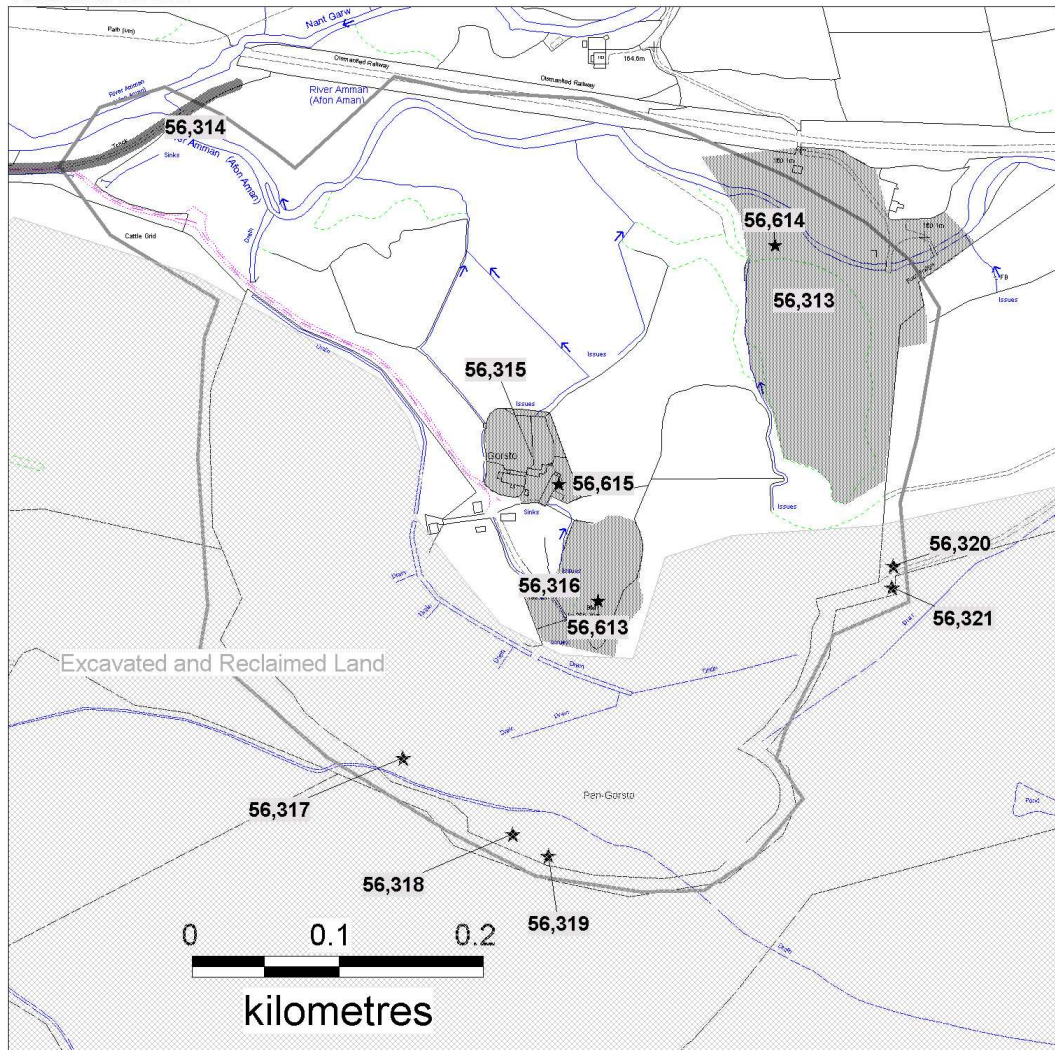
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Morgan, DE, 1997. Brief Report on the Agricultural and Industrial History of the Upper Amman Valley with Special Reference to Ynys Dawela Farm. Unpublished ACA report

Gorsto Farm W/12/5639



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|---|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| — | Farm Boundary | ▨ | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) | — | Linear Archaeological Feature (by PRN) |
| ★ | Archaeological Sites (by PRN) | | | | |

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