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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Bigni**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/5646**

**ACA Report No. 2006/96
Project Record No. 54257**

Prepared by Will Steele

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Bigni Farm consists of two separate parcels of land in the former county of Dyfed. The home farm and holding (/5646) are situated within the community of Y Ferwig in Ceredigion. A second holding lies some 17 kilometres to the south in Clydey community, Pembrokeshire.

Holding (/5646) borders the Lower Teifi Valley Landscape of Historic Interest (HLW (D) 14. This is a non-statutory, advisory designation which aims to provide information and raise awareness of areas with significant landscape value, to aid their protection and conservation. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, which further characterises areas on the basis of their significant landscape components. Part of the holding falls within area 407: Cardigan Island and Coastal Strip. It is dominated by Foel-y-mwnt a distinct rocky hill above the church of The Holy Cross and includes an area of coastal strip as well as enclosed farmland comprising of large, regular fields to the south. The precise origins of this pattern are not known but the large, fairly regular fields suggest that they are later post-medieval, possibly 18th century.

Blaen-cneifa (holding /5646a) is situated close to the settlement of Tegryn in the foothills to the east of Mynydd Preseli. The rounded summits of Freni Fawr and Freni Fach lie nearby. The landscape here comprises mainly of evenly spaced farmsteads and fields bounded by earth banks and hedges. The field pattern is varied, comprising the small, irregular fields of long established enclosure and larger, more regular enclosures formed by acts of parliament during the later nineteenth century.

Archaeological and Historic Content

It has been said that Mwnt (holding /5646) "is marked by two lines of defence " (Arch Camb 328). On the landward side, towards the top of the mount, is a double terrace running from sea slope to sea slope. The site has been interpreted as an Iron Age promontory fort (PRN 1041) but there is no trace of habitation on the rocky interior and it shares few parallels with other known fort types.

Local tradition has it that the summit of the hill once had a lofty stone cross (PRN 5325) from which The Church of the Holy Cross (PRN 5424) is thought to have derived its dedication. A mortuary chapel (PRN 31493) belonging to the church is also said to have existed but it is difficult to envisage where such a chapel might have been located. There is no visible physical evidence to suggest the presence of either.

Beyond the southeast of the churchyard is a large mound, some 12m across x 1.5m high, the northern part of which underlies the raised interior. Its nature is uncertain. There is a remnant dune system in the area and the mound does appear to have a sandy make-up. However, it is not as sandy as undoubted dunes in the area. It is possible that it represents a Bronze Age round barrow (PRN 31489).

An alternative explanation is that it may be the mound referred to by Meyrick (PRN 31490), implicated with the legend of the battle at Mwnt (PRN 10668). The mound is said to cover a great number of human bones: "... and supposed to be the remains of a body of Flemings who having effected a landing on this part of the coast; were encouraged by the natives and repulsed with great slaughter" (Lewis: Vol II Mount). Foel y Mwnt is now owned by The National Trust. Management advice for this area is provided in consultation with a National Trust archaeologist.

Neolithic activity in the area of Blaen-cneifa 5646/b is indicated by the chance find of a stone axe (PRN 1097) that was exhibited and presented to the County Museum, Cardigan in 1859. There are no other details about the axe other than it was recovered from Bwlch-blaen-cneifa. It is now lost. The remaining archaeology on the holding includes the former cottage of Shyvigw (PRN 56619) and the farmstead of Blaen-cneifa itself (PRN 56618).

Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

Foel y Mwnt and its adjacent coastal strip is an important area archaeologically and has a number of interesting historical associations. The management priority for this farm is the sensitive management of the archaeology of this area. The current regime of light grazing should continue. Stocking levels should be sufficient to keep scrub growth in check without causing excessive poaching or erosion.

Visitor erosion continues to be the main problem on the mount. It is most acute where, towards the western end of the two parallel terraces (defensive lines of promontory fort PRN 1041) a substantial gully and considerable erosion have occurred. The erosion was not noted during A National Trust Survey of 1985 and would seem to be a comparatively recent phenomenon. Further management advice is 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:

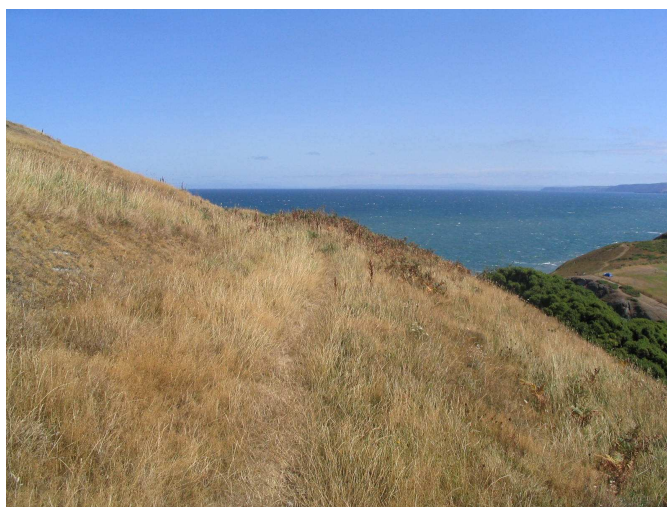
Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.

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	FOEL Y MWNT (1041)	Iron Age hillfort	SN19305205	A		Generic
<p>Foel y Mwnt is a conical, steep sided knoll projecting into the sea. The landward slope is less steep than the seaward slopes which run down to low cliffs. The top is rocky and bare of vegetation. Otherwise it is covered in grass and bushes.</p> <p>On the landward side, toward the top of the mount are two distinct level terraces, each about 1.5m wide situated one above the other, and running from sea slope to sea slope. Although relatively weak, the feature is almost certainly defensive. This is emphasised by a well-defined entrance on the east, near the edge of the sea slope. However, the position enclosing a steep and apparently uninhabitable rocky summit is not paralleled on any other coastal Iron Age sites in the area. It is certainly not a typical promontory fort.</p> <p>The site lies within an area of lightly grazed pasture. Scrub and grass cover now predominate between the bare rock. Areas between the church and the summit of the hill have been eroded by footpaths. The two parallel terraces are largely free of erosion although a substantial gully has emerged at the western end exposing revetment material below. This erosion was not noted during A National Trust Survey of 1985 and would seem to be a comparatively recent phenomenon.</p>						



Facing east along the line of the double terrace.



Visitor erosion on the hillfort earthworks. Facing north-west.

[\(20882\)](#)

**Post Medieval
quarry**

SN19755179 C

Generic

A quarry marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map. The quarry is cut into the hillslope, approximately 6m high by 8m deep and 14m wide, with large spoil tips dumped in front of the working face to the E. It is served by a track from the NE.

The quarry is now overgrown. It lies within regeneration woodland.

TRAETH Y MWNT
[\(25470\)](#)

**Post Medieval lime
kiln**

SN19425179 B

Generic

A fairly typical Cardiganshire coast lime kiln, of semi-circular plan, abutting a steep slope. The kiln is c.3m high and 6m wide. At the top is a circular stone lined pit c2.5m in diameter, now filled to within about three quarter of a metre at the top, but presumably narrowing towards the bottom where it would have connected to the lower openings. Below, at each side of the kiln are these two openings. The example at the NE being blocked but that at the SW retaining its original dimensions, being c 2m high and 1.85m wide, with a neat pointed arch.

The lime-kiln is well preserved on the whole. The NE opening has been blocked with mortared rubble, and the upper loading pit filled to within about 0.75m of the top (Latham & Plunkett-Dillon 1985).

The condition of the site is much as previously described. Ivy growth now obscures much of the NW side of the kiln.

MWNT ([30804](#))

**Post Medieval
quarry**

SN19335176 C

Generic

Minor quarry recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Cut into a steep slope. It is approximately 5m wide, 3.5m deep and cut 4m down into the hillside. Served by a network of tracks.



The quarry. View from north-west.

MWNT ([31489](#))

**Bronze Age?
round barrow?**

SN19545200 U

Generic

Beyond the south-east of the churchyard is a large mound, some 12m across x 1.5m high the northern part of which underlies the raised interior of the churchyard. Its nature is uncertain. There is a remnant dune system in the area and the mound does appear to have a sandy make-up. However, it is not as sandy as undoubted dunes in the area. It is possible that it represents a round barrow.

An alternative explanation is that it may be the mound referred by Meyrick (PRN 31490), implicated with the legend of the battle at Mwnt (PRN 10668). It is said to cover a great number of human bones: "... and supposed to be the remains of a body of Flemings who having effected a landing on this part of the coast; were encouraged by the natives and repulsed with great slaughter" (Lewis: Vol II Mount).



The mound with the church of the holy cross beyond. Facing north.

**TRAETH Y MWNT
([31491](#))**

**Post Medieval
landing point**

SN194519 C

Generic

The beach at Mwnt was used for unloading limestone for the nearby kilns (includes PRNs 25470, 56931).

CLOS-Y-GRAIG ([31494](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN19005161** **C** **Generic**
quarry?

A doubtful feature. It lies on the edge of a pasture field near an uncultivated cliff edge strip. The head of a natural gully is encroached on by relatively recent lynchetting. Additional irregularities in the head of the gully may be the result of quarrying. Of limited significance. Site not seen. WWS August 2006.

SHYVIGW ([56619](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN2301434048** **D** **Generic**
cottage

Recorded on the 1889 Ordnance Survey map as a cottage and garden.

The site now lies within improved pasture land. No surface traces of the cottage remain. A scrub covered terrace of the former garden is now all that remains.

TRAETH Y MWNT ([56931](#)) **Post Medieval lime** **SN19445176** **B** **Generic**
kiln

Described as "the scant remains of a kiln (surviving) as a vague semicircle of burnt stone, set into the bank (Latham & Plunkett Dillon 1985). The Tithe map (1839-40) shows that there were once three lime kilns in this general area.

There are no visible traces of the kiln remaining. It has apparently been destroyed by the construction of the new toilet block.

TRAETH Y MWNT ([56932](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN19395178** **D** **Generic**
limeburners hut

The tithe map (1839-40) records three lime kilns in the vicinity of Traeth-y-mwnt and a small rectangular structure, probably a lime burners hut nearby. There are no surface traces of the lime burners hut remaining. The area now lies within an area of unimproved rough grazing.

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

FOEL Y MWNT ([1041](#))

SN19305205

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

Visitor erosion continues to be the main problem on the mount. It is most acute where, towards the western end of the two parallel terraces (defensive lines of promontory fort PRN 1041) a substantial gully and considerable erosion have occurred. The erosion was not noted during a National Trust Survey of 1985 and would seem to be a comparatively recent phenomenon.

- A scheme of remedial works should be implemented in order to stabilise the erosion and improve the condition of the earthworks.
- Prior to this measures will need to be taken to ensure that an adequate record is made of the disturbed earthworks. That is, the cross section through the terraces will need to be recorded and photographed.
- Due to the scale of the work to be undertaken. This work is considered to be beyond the scope of the Tir Gofal scheme.
- Any future programme of remedial works and recording should be agreed with Cambria Archaeology (advisor to TG) before commencing.

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
BLAEN-CNEIFA (56618)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN2304533754	B	Generic
Farmstead recorded with an extended U-plan arrangement on OS 1st edition map (1889) later modified when further outbuildings and a new house were added (OS 2nd edition). Medieval origins for the property are suggested by documentary evidence with a reference to Blaen Knifa of 1551 (Charles 1992, 367). None of the existing buildings are likely to date to much before the middle of the nineteenth century however.				
The farmhouse, lying separate at the northern end of the complex, is a typical vernacular house of the region, with symmetrical frontage and opposing end chimneys, now modernised with a concrete render and replacement windows. To the south lie the agricultural buildings, arranged in an extended rectangle at the time of the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, although now with few historic elements remaining, the only surviving remnants being a small barn and a stable. These buildings are of local slate stone construction and would originally have had slate roofs. A number of small breeze block and corrugated iron stables and sheds are now situated in-between.				



The north elevation of the small barn at Blaen-cneifa. The circular outline of a horse gin is shown behind on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1889).

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:

Sources

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1889 Pembrokeshire Sheet 12.07, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1889 Cardiganshire Sheet 30.05, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1889 Cardiganshire Sheet 30.09, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1906 Pembrokeshire Sheet 12.07, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1906 Cardiganshire Sheet 30.05, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 30.09, 25"

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1839-40 Verwig Parish

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1841 Clydey Parish

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1848 Mount Parish

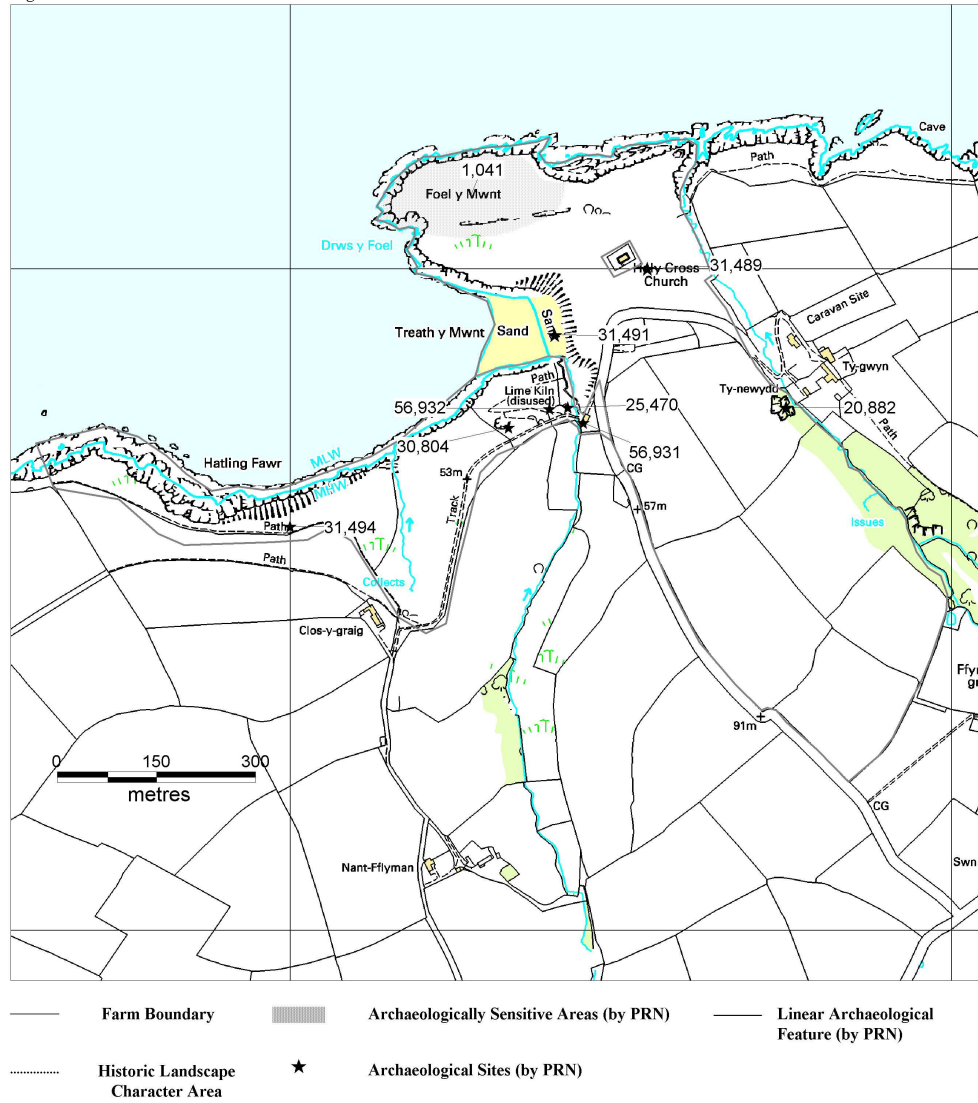
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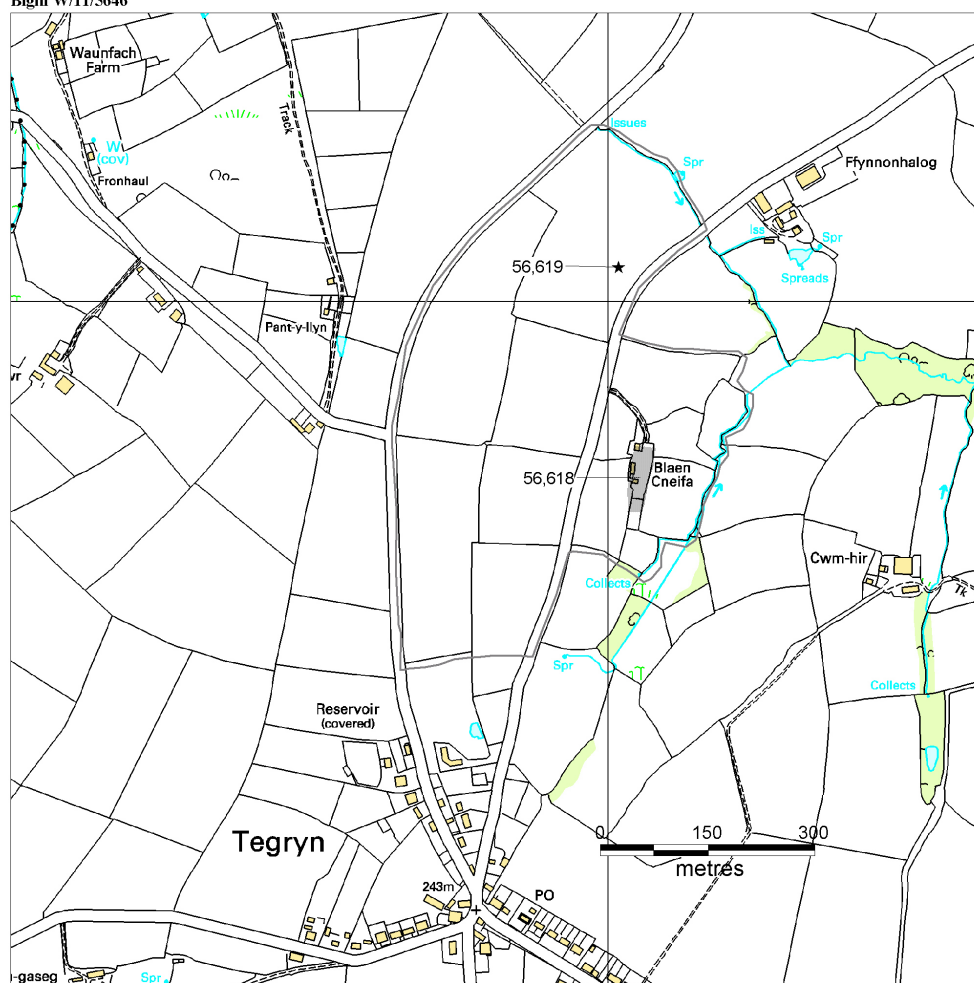
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—	Farm Boundary	■	Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)	—	Linear Archaeological Feature (by PRN)
.....	Historic Landscape Character Area	★	Archaeological Sites (by PRN)		

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