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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



**Prepared for:
Hafod Fawr**

**Tir Gofal Reference No. W/12/5343
ACA Report No. 2006/6
Project Record No. 55281**

**Prepared by
Philip Poucher**

Other documents enclosed:

**Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape
Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.
Historic Landscape Character Areas 233 Llanddeusant - Capel Gwynfe, 234
Cefntelych & 237 Allt y Ferdre.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This farm consists of two holdings. The main holding, W/12/5343 lies around the farmstead of Hafod Fawr in an upland area on the Carmarthenshire/Brecknockshire border. The holding is crossed and bordered by Afon y Cwm and bisected by the upland road from Llandovery to Brecon. This area lies within the Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai Area of Outstanding Historic Interest. The southern part of the holding also lies within the Historic Landscape Characterisation Area (HLCA) 233 Llandeusant - Capel Gwynfe, the northern part of the holding within HLCA 234 Cefntelych and HLCA 237 Allt y Ferdre. These character areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape and the descriptions include general management priorities. The enclosure pattern within this holding is mixed, with small to medium sized irregular fields over much of the southern part of the holding (within HLCA 233), larger more regular fields on higher ground to the northwest (within HLCA 234) and woodland on steep hillslopes, along riverbanks and within HLCA 237. The irregular fields are characteristic of the gradual enclosure of farmland and may be early in date, and are likely to have been well established by the time they were recorded in their current layout on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. The larger more regular enclosures are more characteristic of later Post Medieval enclosure of formerly open upland, although the current boundaries were also in place by the time of the 1887 map. The areas of woodland had also been established by this date, and may represent remnants of ancient woodland. The settlement pattern in this area consists of dispersed farmsteads. The date of this pattern is unclear, although the farm name indicates it may have originated as a seasonal dwelling on summer pastures. The farmstead is marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1832.

The 2nd smaller holding of W/12/5343/a lies c3km to the northwest near Llandovery. The enclosure pattern in this area consists of medium sized regular fields, characteristic of later Post Medieval enclosure. The current pattern was in place by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The settlement pattern in this area consists of dispersed farmsteads and cottages away from the nucleated centre of Llandovery. The origins of this pattern are unclear but it had been established by the time of the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

The road (PRN 6379) that both borders holding W/12/5343/a and runs through W/12/5343 is believed to follow the route of the Roman road from Llandovery to Brecon. The area around W/12/5343 appears to have seen a concentration of Roman military activity with the large marching camp of Y Pigwn and a fortlet or signal station a short distance to the west, as well as practice camps recorded in the area.

One such marching or practice camp (PRN 4157) lies within the holding, with a second (PRN 7791) nearby just beyond the limits of this holding.

The remaining archaeology within the holdings is Post Medieval in date, although some of the field boundaries within W/12/5343 may have late Medieval origins and the farmstead name may also indicate a seasonal dwelling of relatively early date. The farmstead of Hafod Fawr (PRN 55615) is recorded on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1832. A nearby cottage called Hafod Fach (PRN 55614) also appears to be marked on this map, as is the dwelling of Troed-y-rhiw (PRN 55617) in holding W/12/5343/a. By the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 Hafod Fach cottage had been abandoned, but Troed-y-rhiw appears to have expanded into a small farmstead as barns (PRNs 55618 & 55619) are shown within W/12/5343/a. Small-scale industrial activity is indicated within W/12/5343 by a small 19th century roadside quarry (PRN 55616).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority for this farm should be the preservation and maintenance of the traditional farm building within Hafod Fawr farmstead (PRN 55615), as well as the preservation of the Roman marching/practice camp (PRN 4157).

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
HAFOD FAWR <u>(4157)</u>	Roman/ Marching camp;Practice camp	SN81243151	A		Generic

A small Roman fort or practice camp, approximately 35m square, located to the west of Y Pigwn marching camp, close to the probable line of the Roman road to Llandoverly. A centrally located entrance has been recorded in each side, 3m wide and each with a tutulus (a short section of bank and ditch fronting the entrance), although these are difficult to identify on the ground. The site consists of low grass covered banks c3-4m wide with traces of an external ditch. It lies in a wet pasture field currently covered in rushes. There is another Roman camp PRN 7791 north-west of this feature. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*



Facing SE, looking along a length of bank marking out the Roman marching/practice camp.

VIA JULIA MONTANA <u>(6379)</u>	Roman/ Road?	SN8030	A		Generic
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Part of the proposed route of Roman road RR62b suggested by Margary running between Llandoverly and Brecon Gaer. Part of this route between SN78343326 and SN85002978 is marked as a Roman road on Ordnance Survey maps. This was also the route of the main coach road before the establishment of the

valley road (now the A40) in circa 1769. This Roman road has been referred to as Via Julia Montana. PRN 4085 is a segment of Roman road that has been identified from field observations between SN77063498 and SN77323429 which is presumed to be the final stretch of RR62b leading to the fort at Llandovery. The modern road deviates from the line of the Roman road at the Allt Rhydys quarries (SN78133338). On the whole, this route seems the most probable, though as yet no direct evidence has been proven. An alternative suggested route to the south, passing Arosfa Garreg Llwyd, seems less probable, and cuts the corner of the marching camp. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*

HAFOD FACH (55614) Post Med/ Cottage SN8161031069 B Generic

A cottage that appears to be marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1832. It is clearly shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887, aligned ENW-WSW, but may already have been abandoned by that time. Little now remains of the site, other than an indistinct pile of stones under a small clump of trees, lying in a pasture field. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*

HAFOD FAWR (55615) Post Med/ SN8147631242 B Generic
Farmstead

A working farmstead complex to the southeast of Llandovery. The date of its origin is unclear. The farmstead lies adjacent to a possible Roman road that was later used as a coach road, and the name suggests it originated as a seasonal dwelling on summer pastures. The farmstead is recorded on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1832. The more detailed 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows the complex consisting of the farmhouse with an opposing L-shaped range of farm buildings to the north. Traditional farm buildings are described in section ii. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*

(55616) Post Med/ Quarry SN8140731329 C Generic

A small roadside quarry marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 close to Hafod Fawr farmstead PRN 55615. Stone from the quarry was probably used primarily in building and repair work at the farmstead. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*

(55619) Post Med; SN7789033779 U Generic
Modern/ Building

A small rectangular building first marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907. The building lies against the northern edge of a field, its location and size suggesting it was a barn. There are currently no above ground remains of this site. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*

(55620) Unknown/ Bank SN8111031740 U Generic

The RCAHMS record a linear bank lying on sloping ground to the southeast of Roman practice camp (PRN 7791). The bank runs c71m NW-SE before turning and running another 40m, at some point it is also cut by the field boundary. The date and function of the bank is unknown and it is unclear how much the bank extends into this farm holding as no feature is clearly visible on the ground in this area. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements - Section B2

1. Maintain the agreed stocking level to encourage a sound grass sward or low growing vegetation, without poaching or causing erosion.


2. Do not install new drains or underground services.
3. Locate feeding and watering stations away from archaeological and historic features.
4. Avoid using heavy machinery on sites or close to archaeological and historic features, especially in wet weather.
5. Do not plough archaeological or historic features, or cultivate so close as to cut into the remains. A minimum buffer zone of 2m is advised. In the case of monuments already under cultivation and where the agreement does not exclude the monument from cultivation, ensure that the depth of cultivation is not increased.
6. Remove any dead and unstable trees from the vicinity of archaeological and historic features with care, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance. Agree with the Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused, for example, by wind-throw.
7. Control scrub on archaeological and historic features by cutting. Roots must be left in the ground and must not be pulled or dug out. Treatment with an approved herbicide may, exceptionally, be permitted in agreement with the Project Officer. (Capital Works Option).
8. Do not burn materials on site.
9. Ensure that rabbits are kept under control, but not by excavating within an archaeological or historic feature.
10. Consult your Project Officer a suitable method for repairing any damage caused by burrowing animals. (Capital Works Option)

ii) TRADITIONAL BUILDINGS:

Location and Description:

Traditional buildings are those built before c.1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction, to serve the needs of customary farming practices. Typically, they will use locally available materials and skills, though mass-produced materials (bricks, corrugated iron) may sometimes be locally characteristic.

The following traditional buildings have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status SAM/listing	Management required
1	HAFOD FAWR <u>(55615)</u>	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN8147631242	B	Specific
<p>A working farmstead complex to the southeast of Llandovery. The date of its origin is unclear. The farmstead lies adjacent to a possible Roman road that was later used as a coach road, and the name suggests it originated as a seasonal dwelling on summer pastures. The farmstead is recorded on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1832. The more detailed 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 shows the complex consisting of the farmhouse with an opposing L-shaped range of farm buildings to the north. The farmhouse remains with a single opposing traditional farm building. An adjoining barn forming the L-shaped range has since been replaced with a more modern barn. The traditional barn is built of mortared random rubble, whitewashed, with a rounded corrugated iron roof (apparently originally stone tiled). Two doorways and three windows, two of which are part blocked former doorways, face the farmhouse, with a doorway in the rear wall. The barn is still used as a cow shed but with a deteriorating roof and areas of loose masonry. <i>Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)</i></p>					
<div>  <p>NNW facing shot of the traditional farm building.</p> </div>					
	TROED-Y-RHIW <u>(55617)</u>	Post Med/ Dwelling	SN7802133524	B	Generic
<p>A roadside dwelling marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886, and possibly also on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The dwelling is 2-storey, rendered, with a slate roof and a chimney in both gable walls. A small complex of farm buildings on the opposite side of the road indicates this may have functioned as the farmhouse of a small farmstead. The house appears in good stable condition although its current state of occupation is unknown. <i>Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)</i></p>					

TROED-Y-RHIW
(55618)

Post
Med;Modern/
Barn

SN7804733566 B

Generic

A small rectangular barn first marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. The building is built of whitewashed mortared stone with brick quoins and door and window surrounds and a corrugated iron roof. Modern farm buildings stand to the south forming a small farmstead complex along with dwelling PRN 55617 across the road. Some of the farm buildings are still in use although this barn is possibly only be used for storage now. The roof is beginning to deteriorate to the rear and masonry appears to be loose along the rear wall and at the northwest corner. *Visited 24/01/2006 (PP)*



NE facing shot of the traditional barn marked on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)

7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Traditional Buildings:

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

Site 1 on MAP 1

HAFOD FAWR (55615)

SN8147631242

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

The aim of the management for this site should be the maintenance and preservation of the traditional farm building within the farmstead complex. The building is still in use as a cow barn but the rounded corrugated iron roofing is deteriorating and has slipped in places. Facing stones have also come away from around one of the doorways, threatening the integrity of the doorway itself. The rear wall may also need to be examined for its structural integrity.

- The roof structure should be repaired using appropriate materials and techniques. The semi-circular corrugated iron roofing is likely to have been in place throughout much of the 20th century, therefore it would be preferable to retain a corrugated iron roof. Ideally a semi-circular profile should also be retained however it may be unrealistic to keep it, this would partly depend on the condition of the roof structure which was not closely examined during the farm visit. The costs of re-roofing in corrugated iron in both the semi-circular profile and standard pitched profile should be established to determine the best option.
- The masonry around the doorway should be repaired and consolidated.

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

Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Carmarthenshire Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales. Historic Landscape Character Areas 233

Llanddeusant - Capel Gwynfe, 234 Cefntelych & 237 Allt y Ferdre.

Ordnance Survey 1832 Old Series 1" map, No.XLII

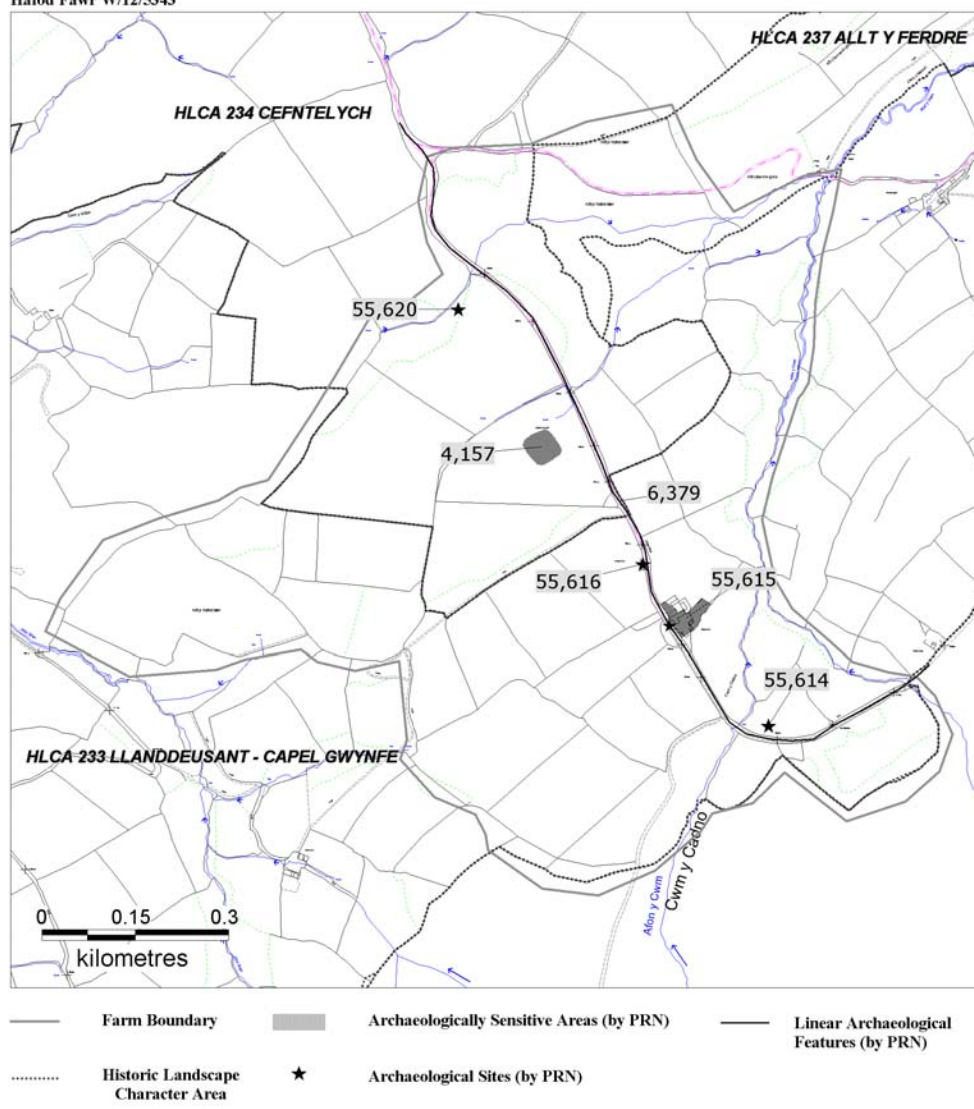
Ordnance Survey 1886 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXVII.2

Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXVII.7

Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXVII.2

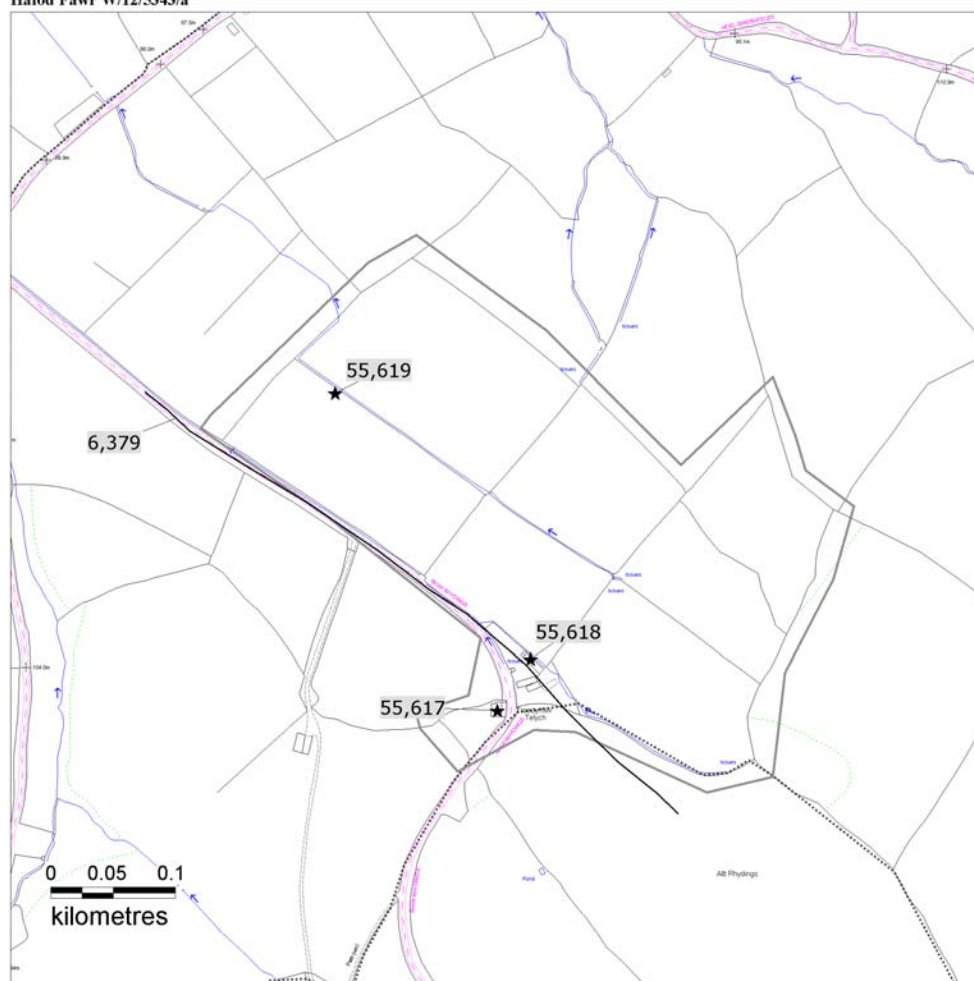
Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXVII.7

RCAHMW. Coflein Online Database.



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Hafod Fawr W/12/5343/a



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

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CARMARTHENSHIRE: BLACK MOUNTAIN AND MYNYDD MYDDFAI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 233 LLANDDEUSANT - CAPEL-GWYNFE

GRID REFERENCE: SN 761261

AREA IN HECTARES: 4778.00

Historic Background

A very large character area on the northwest fringes of the Black Mountain/Mynydd Myddfai, lying within the former Cwmwd Perfedd of Cantref Bychan which was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.). It was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery but later reverted to Welsh rule. In 1282 the Lordship was acquired by John Giffard and thereafter remained under English rule (James n.d., 87) but retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated within modern Carmarthenshire. The area has strong 'Celtic' traditions - hagiographies suggest that St Paulinus, the reputed teacher of St David established a monastic college in the general area, dedicated to two saints (Sambrook and Page 1995, 4); the present dedication of Llanddeusant parish church is to SS Simon & Jude but may reflect an earlier joint dedication (Ludlow 1998). Capel Gwynfe has historically been a chapel-of-ease to Llangadog parish, but a system of boundaries adjacent to the church may perpetuate the line of a *llan* (Sambrook and Page 1995, 5). By the post-Conquest period Area 233 was divided between the Medieval Maenor Llanddeusant, coterminous with the ecclesiastical parish, and Maenor Gwynfe. The present pattern of small, irregular fields may well be early in date, and represent a system of small dispersed holdings that were well-established by the time of the tithe surveys of the early 19th-century. Indeed, the physical boundary between this area and the unenclosed moorland of Areas 239 and 240 to the south is well-defined as a masonry wall, suggesting a long period of stability without evidence for *ad hoc* encroachments. During the later Middle Ages the Lordship of Llandovery was held by the Audleys, and in the Post-Medieval period by the Vaughans of Golden Grove and the Earls of Cawdor (James n.d., 87). Both Coed Mawr and Llwynfron were recorded as dwellings of the Aubrey family in the 16th century (Jones 1987, 40, 121), Pant Hywel, Penrhiw and Penycrug were residences of the Lewis family (Jones 1987, 142) while the Lewis family of Gwynfe styled themselves 'Lords of Gwynfe' (Jones 1987, 89-90). Nevertheless, the effects of gentrification have been less extensive within this character area than is general within the region and there is little parkland or 'polite' architecture. The area includes a network of Post-Medieval drovers routes, the most important of which followed the Sawdde Valley down from the Black Mountain to Llangadog; the current A4069 partly follows a drovers road, the 'Bryn Road', turnpiked from 1779 (DAT & CPAT, 1997, 5). The present nucleations are all late; the development of Capel Gwynfe, for example, was concomitant on the establishment of the turnpike running past the church which was rebuilt in c.1800 and again in 1898 (Ludlow 1998). Llanddeusant Church never became a focus for settlement, which instead developed around routeways, particularly the crossroads at Twyn-llanan and at Cross Inn (the latter with an inn). However, in all cases settlement is slight, and dispersed.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This is an extremely large character area. It runs for some 17 km southwest to northeast along the northern side of the Black Mountain, and is up to 5 km wide, southeast to northwest. It consists of rolling hills and deeply incised narrow valleys, ranging in height from 120 m in the valley bottoms to over 300 m on the summits of the higher hills and along the fringes of the Black Mountain. The historic landscape comprises small irregular fields, dispersed small farms and scattered woodland. The whole area has been enclosed into a patchwork of small fields by earth banks and hedges. Over such an extensive area there are clear differences of hedge management, but generally hedges are in good condition and well maintained, with derelict and overgrown examples usually occurring only at higher altitudes and along the fringes of the Black Mountain. A striking characteristic of this area is the very sharp boundary between it and the unenclosed land of the Black Mountain. On the ground this boundary is marked for at least part of its course by a dry-stone wall/stony bank. Other stony banks rather than earth banks were also noted close to the boundary of the Black Mountain, especially at the northeastern end of the area. Land-use varies across the area, but is predominantly improved pasture with pockets of rough grazing and rushy ground. Most of the steep valley sides are cloaked with deciduous woodland. This together with distinctive hedgerow trees in areas of overgrown hedges lends a wooded aspect to parts of the landscape. A couple of small conifer plantations are present. Apart from

the A4069, the old turnpike road which runs south to north across the area linking the south side of the Black Mountain with the Tywi valley, transport links are confined to numerous local minor roads, lanes and tracks. Settlement in the area comprises predominantly dispersed farms and other dwellings. Farmhouses are mostly 19th century, stone-built, two-storey, three-bays in the vernacular tradition. Traditional outbuildings associated with the farms are also 19th century and stone-built, and tend to be relatively small, often limited to just one range. Most farms have a collection of modern agricultural buildings. Early 19th-century buildings, including an old inn, in the polite 'Georgian' tradition are dispersed close to New Inn on the A4069 old turnpike road. Capel Gwynfe and Twynllanan are the only aggregate settlements in the area. Both are essentially hamlets, comprising a loose cluster of 19th century houses focused on chapels, with late 20th-century residential development in a variety of materials and styles. Other 19th century chapels in the area stand in isolated locations, as does the Medieval parish church of Llanddeusant. Outside the two hamlets, other late 20th-century development is limited to occasional isolated houses or bungalows.

Recorded archaeology from such a large landscape area takes in a range of sites from all periods. However, all features relate primarily to agricultural land-use.

There are a few distinctive buildings, but the older houses have mostly been rebuilt, and none are listed. Llwynfron, however, is a small gentry farmhouse with 17th century origins, Bedw-hirion is a similar house of 1796 and Ty Brych is a small farmhouse of the early 19th-century, all subject to consideration for relisting (Judith Alfrey, pers. comm.). SS Simon & Jude, Llanddeusant is a Grade B listed landmark Medieval church with a turret, while the unlisted Capel Gwynfe is from 1898-9, with a tower (Ludlow 1998) and an earlier 19th century church hall (formerly the church building). The boundary wall between this area and Area 240 is distinctive but now derelict.

The boundary of this area is very well defined against the Black Mountain to the south (Areas 239, 240), and against a forestry plantation to the north (Area 230). Elsewhere to the north between this area and its neighbours (Areas 229, 231, 232 and 234) there tends to be a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border. Definition is a little better to the west against the more regular field systems of Area 200.

Conservation priorities

This area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). Most of the historic landscape components in this character area are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges, and in other boundary types is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland. Historic farm buildings form an important component in this landscape. Although most are in use and in a good state of repair, some consideration may have to be given as to how they can be best used/reused and maintained for future generations. Otherwise maintain as existing.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: BLACK MOUNTAIN AND MYNYDD MYDDFAI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 234 CEFNTELYCH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 799322

AREA IN HECTARES: 257.90

Historic Background

A small area on the western fringes of the Brecon Beacons, formerly within Maenor Myddfai, Cwmwd Perfedd, of the former Cantref Bychan, which was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.). It was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery but reverted to Welsh rule until 1282 when it was acquired by John Giffard (James n.d., 87). It retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated within modern Carmarthenshire. The lordship was later held by the Audleys, and in the Post-Medieval period by the Vaughans of Golden Grove and the Earls of Cawdor (James n.d., 87). Cefntelych ridge is now enclosed with large, fairly regular fields which were established by 1840 (Myddfai tithe map). They may be later Post-Medieval rather than earlier, and the ridge may have been unenclosed for much of the historic period. It is crossed by the Roman road following the upland route from Llandovery (*Alabum*) to Brecon (*Cicutio*), as a result of which the region (including neighbouring Area 240), exhibits a number of Roman military sites (James 1982, 9), such as a marching camp and a practice camp at Allt-y-hafod-fawr. There has been no subsequent development within the character area apart from one small informal holding.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This relatively small character area comprises a northwest to southeast ridge between 180 m and 270 m. Apart from a single small farm with a 19th century farmhouse in the vernacular tradition and a small range of outbuildings, there are no settlements in the area. A straight lane - the course of a Roman road - runs along the ridge. Essentially this is a landscape of medium- to large-sized fairly regular fields which are divided by earth banks topped with hedges. Apart from alongside roads and tracks, hedges are in poor condition and are either derelict or overgrown. There are few distinctive hedgerow trees, and this factor combined with the lack of woodland and the derelict hedges lends an open feel to the landscape. Land-use is almost entirely improved pasture.

Archaeology is dominated by the Roman road, practice camp and marching camp which survive as earthworks and provide time-depth to the landscape. There is also a possible inscribed stone

There are few buildings within the area and none are distinctive.

To the west, Area 232 shares many historic components with this area - here there is a zone of change rather than a hard-edged border. Elsewhere to the south and west the heavily wooded aspect and smaller fields of neighbouring areas (Areas 228 and 233) provide a reasonably clear boundary. A conifer plantation (Area 237) lies to the east.

Conservation priorities

This area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area. Most of the historic landscape components are in a reasonable state of preservation. However, the decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is beginning to erode the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: BLACK MOUNTAIN AND MYNYDD MYDDFAI

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 237 ALLT Y FERDRE

GRID REFERENCE: SN 798335

AREA IN HECTARES: 339.00

Historic Background

An area which is highly irregular in plan, comprising the wooded slopes which form the southern flank of the Afon Gwydderig. It once lay within Hirfryn commote of Cantref Bychan, which was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.), though it later reverted to Welsh rule. From 1282 onwards the Lordship of Llandovery remained under English rule but retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when it was incorporated within modern Carmarthenshire. During the Post-Medieval period it was held by the Vaughans of Golden Grove and the Earls of Cawdor (James n.d., 87). An Iron Age hillfort is present and may have conferred a sense of continuing importance to the area. The *Ferdre* place-name suggests that the area may have formed part of one of the former *maerdref* estates of Hirfryn commote. Such estates were normally held by bond tenants who were in the charge of a reeve, subject to their own legal court and responsible for the maintenance of the lord's mill, labour and the carriage of produce, holding their land by inheritance, with perpetual right to their holdings (Rees, 1924, 200). There is currently very little settlement in the area, which reflects the situation seen on historic maps. There is some enclosure, the smaller, irregular fields being earlier - Medieval lynchets have been recorded in the north of the area - and larger, regular fields which are later. Much of the area, however, is currently unenclosed, which possibly reflects historic usage, probably always having mainly comprised steep wooded valley sides and pasture that was unenclosed until the late 20th-century when it was planted with conifers. The Brecon-Llandovery section of the A40(T), which was turnpiked in the late 18th-century, partly forms the northern edge of the area.

Description and essential historic landscape components

The Allt y Ferdre character area lies across rounded hills and steep, mainly north-facing slopes of the Afon Gwydderig valley between 110 m and 240 m. The area is entirely wooded. Some of this is old established deciduous woodland on the steep slopes, but conifer plantations have infilled the gaps between to produce an irregular block of forestry covering several square kilometres. Conifers were planted over former partly-enclosed land which consisted of both regular and irregular fields. Field boundaries survive beneath the forestry, but the main historic landscape components of this area now comprise the tracks and drives of the plantation.

Recorded archaeology provides time-depth but is confined to an Iron Age hillfort which survives as a scheduled earthwork, and a Medieval cultivation terrace.

There are very few buildings and none of them are distinctive.

Landscape character areas have yet to be defined to east and north. To the west and south lie the farms and fields of Areas 233 and 234.

Conservation priorities

This area lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Historic landscape conservation priorities must respect policies in the National Park Plan (1993) and the National Park Local Plan (1995). There are few historic landscape conservation priorities in this character area, but some consideration should be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland.