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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Pwllcalch**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/5385**

**ACA Report No. 2006/23
Project Record No. 55285**

**Prepared by
Philip Poucher**

**Other documents enclosed:
Historic Landscape Character Area 233: Llanddeusant and Capel Gwynfe**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Pwllcalch farm consists of one holding, divided in two by the Afon Clydach, to the north is Myddfai community to the south is Llanddeusant. This region is registered by Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai). In addition further assessment of the landscape has identified individual character areas of which Pwllcalch holding lies within the Llanddeusant and Capel Gwynfe Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA 233). The historic landscape of this area comprises small irregular fields, which 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. Settlement is slight and scattered with dispersed small farmsteads.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC CONTENT

The recorded archaeology on the farm is post medieval in date and much of it is settlement related; there are the farmsteads of Pwllcalch and Cefn Gwyrch (PRNs 55867 & 55865) which were both established on the 1831 Old Series Ordnance Survey map. In addition there are a number of cottage sites that were marked on 19th and early 20th century maps, some still in existence (PRN 55674), but little trace now remains of most (PRN 7483, 7484, 55687, 55864 & 55869). This was not an entirely agricultural landscape however; small-scale industries were an integral part of the local economy of the 19th century and are represented by such sites as a lime kiln (PRN 7482), a woollen mill bordering the holding (PRNs 55671, 55672 & 55673), a probable corn mill (PRN 21948) and a lead mine (PRN 55670).

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority for this farm should be the preservation and maintenance of the limekiln (PRN 7482) as well as the complex of traditional farm buildings that make up Pwllcalch farmstead (PRNs 55867 & 55866).

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	ALLT PWLL CALCH (7482)	Post Med/ Lime kiln	SN7681728540	B	Specific

The remains of a limekiln standing in a small copse of woodland surrounded by small limestone quarries. The kiln is built into the slope of the hillside, constructed of mortared rubble. The well preserved circular crucible opening is clearly visible, accessed from the south, with a small build up of vegetation and rubbish inside. Many of the facing stones have fallen away from the front of the kiln revealing the crucible structure underneath but blocking the draw hole opening. Earth and stone banks extend down the hillside to the north, possibly forming a working enclosure or trackway, or they may just represent a build-up of spare or waste limestone. The kiln is located on a ridge of limestone, the stone has been quarried from the hillside immediately behind the kiln and also possibly from the outcropping rocks in the woodland to the west. The kiln was probably in operation during the 18th and 19th centuries but is marked as 'Old Limekiln' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 suggesting it was out of use by that time. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*



SSW facing shot of the limekiln remains.

CWMDU (7483) Post Med/ Cottage SN76572835 B Generic

A deserted cottage site recorded as an earthwork in 1976. No details are known of this site, which appears to lie on a wooded 'island' enclosed by streams to the north and south and the road to the east. No cottage is marked on the 1st (1886) or 2nd (1905) edition Ordnance Survey maps, it may be marked on the tithe map of 1841 as the adjacent field is called 'Cae Cwmdu' but unfortunately the area of the cottage is missing from the map. There are currently no visible above ground remains of the site amongst the scrub and woodland cover. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

COL (7484) Post Medieval/ SN76732866 B Generic
Cottage

A cottage on the banks of Afon Clydach and adjacent to the road, marked on the tithe map of 1840. The cottage is no longer marked here on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The site was apparently recorded as an earthwork in 1976 but there are now no above ground remains of the site. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

CAE BAILEY Y YABOR Unknown/ Place- SN77132830 U Generic
(8129) name

A field name recorded as 'Cae Bailey Y(s)? Yabor' on the tithe map of 1841. The significance of the 'Bailey' element is unclear, it has been known sometimes to refer to a castle enclosure, although this name appears to indicate an enclosure associated with a barn.

No associated above ground archaeological feature is visible in this area. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

MELIN-PWLL-CALCH Post Medieval/ SN76662862 B Generic
(21948) Mill

A small rectangular building with adjoining extension is shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. Its name implies that at some time it was a mill although it may have been abandoned by the time of the 1st edition map, and no associated features to confirm the mill are shown on the map. No above ground building remains are visible, although a level building platform adjacent to the river is apparent. An area of undulating ground above the platform may conceal associated remains and a small stone lined culvert also emerges above the former building site, possibly connected to the milling process.

The site lies on the edge of a field of improved pasture, with a consistent grass cover and no active erosion visible. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

(55670) Post Medieval/ SN7636327941 C Generic
Level

A lead mine level is marked in the corner of the field on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886, presumably part of a wider system of lead mining operating in this area during the later 19th century. Marked as 'Old Level' on the 2nd edition map of 1906 suggesting it was out of use by that date.

The site now lies in the corner of a field of improved pasture. There are no visible above ground remains although an area of stony ground was apparently noted in the area during ploughing. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

(55671) Post Medieval/ SN7624028269 C Generic
Weir

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a weir on the River Clydach. Part of a water management system to supply Aber Triphlwyf Woollen Mill (PRN 10238) with water power. The line of the weir is still visible in the shallow river at this point although it has mostly been washed out and disturbed. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

(55672) Post Medieval/ SN7623628266 C Generic
Sluice

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a sluice on the River Clydach. Part of a water management system to supply Aber Triphlwyf Woollen Mill (PRN 10238) with water power. There are no visible remains of this feature. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

(55673) Post Medieval/ SN7607128250 B Generic
Leat

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows a mill leat on the River Clydach. Part of a water management system to supply Aber Triphlwyf Woollen Mill (PRN 10238) with water power. The line of the leat is still

clearly visible running along the base of the hillside on the north side of the river. Stonework visible towards the western end indicates the leat was built of mortared stone with a slate lined channel, though the stonework is now covered by earth and vegetation along most of its length. A level platform runs along a large bank on the northern side of the leat which would appear to be the remains of an associated trackway. Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)



E facing shot looking along the dead-leaf filled and stone-lined mill leat.

(55685) **Post Med/ Quarry SN7682828498 C Generic**

A small circular stone quarry. The site lies adjacent to a limekiln (PRN 7482) but appears to have been used to extract a shale-type stone. The site is not marked on historic maps but is Post Medieval in appearance. Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)

(55686) **Post Med;Modern/ SN7671028702 B Generic Well**

A roadside well marked on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906, previously labelled as a spring on the earlier 1st edition map of 1886. No structural remains are visible at this location although the spring does still emerge from the field at this point. Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)

(55687) **Post Med/ Cottage SN7672028683 B Generic**

A cottage site adjacent to PRN 7484. Both cottages are marked on the tithe map of 1840 but appear to have been abandoned by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886. The site lies in a field of improved pasture, there are no above ground remains of the site other than a possible platform cut into the hillside adjacent to the road. Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)

NANT YOROTH (55864) **Post Medieval/ SN7708629273 B Generic Cottage**

A cottage marked on both the tithe map of 1840 and the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886, lying adjacent to the former trackway to Cefn Gwyrch farmstead (PRN 55865). The cottage appears to have been abandoned by the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 and there are now no obvious above ground remains of the site. Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)

CEFN GWRYCH (55865) **Post Medieval/ SN7708229011 B Generic Farmstead**

A small farmstead complex marked on the tithe map of 1840. The more detailed 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 shows the small complex consisting of a farmhouse with a farm building range facing it to the northeast. The farmhouse is still in occupation and not part of this farm holding. The farm building range is now ruinous but consists of a large barn at the south-eastern end built of mortared slate, roughly coursed, with large opposing doorways and remnants of slate roofing. Sections of the side-wall have tumbled and the roof has now gone, roofing timbers visible amongst the rubble inside the barn. The north-western part of the range is taken up by a smaller barn, formerly lofted, built of mortared random rubble suggesting it was a later addition to the original barn. The roof timbers are still in place, although exposed and deteriorating. Attached to the north-eastern side is a small mortared random rubble built lean-to, now mostly tumbled. The ruins are mostly fenced off and appear in a relatively stable condition with little vegetation, although the

walls and remaining roof timbers are exposed to the elements and some trees grow close to the walls. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*



SSW facing shot of the ruined farm building range at Cefn Gwrych farmstead.

PWLLCALCH (55867)

**Post Medieval/
Farmstead**

SN7681828369 B

Generic

A small working farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time, traditional buildings are described in section ii. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

(55869)

**Post Medieval/
Cottage**

SN7664328066 B

Generic

A cottage within an enclosure is marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. By the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 the building is still marked but may have been abandoned. The road has been widened at this point running over the site of this cottage, consequently there are no above ground remains. *Visited 07/03/2006 (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)

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

ALLT PWLL CALCH Limekiln (7482)

SN7681728540

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

The aim of the management for this site should be preservation of the upstanding remains of this limekiln. Kilns such as this were once a common feature of limestone rich areas but it is now rare to find upstanding examples such as this. The main crucible of the kiln still appears to be in a relatively good and stable condition, although the interior has filled up with some vegetation and rubbish. Many of the facing stones have fallen away from the structure, collecting at the base of the kiln. Some remaining facing are also loose. The site lies within a small copse of trees, trees growing close to or on top of the kiln structure could cause damage through root action or collapsing.


- The crucible should be cleared of rubbish and vegetative litter.
- Loose facing stones should be consolidated using appropriate materials and techniques.
- Trees that grow on the kiln should be removed, as should trees growing close to the upstanding remains of the structure if the roots are judged to be causing damage. Dead material should be removed from the site.

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
2	PWLLCALCH (55866)	Post Medieval/ Barn	SN7691028320	B		Specific
	<p>A former threshing barn standing on the hillside above and slightly detached from Pwllcalch farmstead (PRN 55867) although obviously part of the same complex. The building is mortared rubble built with tall narrow ventilation slits in the walls, two large opposing doorways and a mainly corrugated iron roof, although slate remains on half of the northern side. A lean-to has been added to the northern side. A cobbled area remains on the southern side, which once formed the base of a horse gin driving farm machinery inside. This building is first marked on the tithe map of 1841 and is still in use, although the corrugated iron roofing appears loose and deteriorating on the southern side and there is a noticeable bulge in the western gable wall. <i>Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)</i></p>					
	 <p>NE facing shot of the former threshing barn.</p>					
3	PWLLCALCH (55867)	Post Medieval/ Farmstead	SN7681828369	B		Specific
	<p>A small working farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1831. The complex is shown in more detail on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 consisting of a farmhouse with an attached range and a pigsty opposite. A threshing barn (PRN 55866) lies on the hillside above. Another small farm building is added at the southern end of the complex by the time of the 2nd edition OS map of 1906.</p> <p>The farmhouse is still in use with an attached cow barn range, built of mortared random rubble, limewashed on the western side with a slate roof, tumbled masonry visible on the eastern side with a corrugated iron roof. The pigsty has been replaced by a modern building but the southern farm building still remains, modified in places, but essentially mortared stone built with a slate roof. The farmstead complex is still in use, whilst the western face of the attached cow barn range appears stable tumbled masonry is visible in the rear wall. Ivy has established itself on the southern farm building. <i>Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)</i></p>					



NE facing shot of the attached cow barn range.



SW facing shot of the southern farm building.

COL (55674)

**Post Medieval/
Cottage**

SN7668828743 B

Generic

A cottage marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and still in occupation as a dwelling. A plaque on the front of the building states that John Thomas, hymnist, was born here in 1730. However, no building is marked in this location on the tithe map of 1840 although two nearby cottages are shown (PRNs 7484 & 55687) which were abandoned by 1886 that may have provided the birthplace in 1730. *Visited 07/03/2006 (PP)*

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 2 on MAP 1

PWLLCALCH Barn (55866)

SN7691028320

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 preservation and maintenance of this farm building. The building is still in agricultural use although the corrugated iron sheeting that covers the southern side of the roof appears to be deteriorating in places. A bulge is visible in the western gable wall which would appear to be gradually separating from the rest of the building.

- The western gable wall may need to be examined by a qualified builder to establish the threat posed by the bulge and condition of the wall. The wall may need to be consolidated using appropriate materials and techniques.
- The corrugated iron roofing on the south side should be repaired or replaced using appropriate materials. Corrugated iron roofing is likely to have been using as a roof covering for many years and can be viewed as a traditional roofing material. A section of the northern side of the roof is also slate covered, suggesting the entire roof may have been slate covered prior to the use of corrugated iron.

Site 3 on MAP 1

PWLLCALCH Farmstead (55867)

SN7681828369

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

The aim of the management for this site should be to ensure the survival of the traditional buildings and maintain the historic character of the complex of traditional farm buildings as a whole. This is a working farmstead complex and the traditional farm buildings are mostly still in use and in a relatively

good condition, however, stonework has fallen away from the rear of the attached cow barn range leaving a hole through the wall and loose facing stones. Ivy has established itself on the small farm building to the west of the attached cow barn range, which could be causing damage or hiding defects.

- The loose and tumbled stonework to the rear of the attached cow barn range should be consolidated and repaired using appropriate materials and techniques.
- Ivy covering the small farm building should be trimmed back, the ivy should only be removed when it is clear it will not damage the underlying structure.

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 Area 233; Llanddeusant and Capel Gwynfe.

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

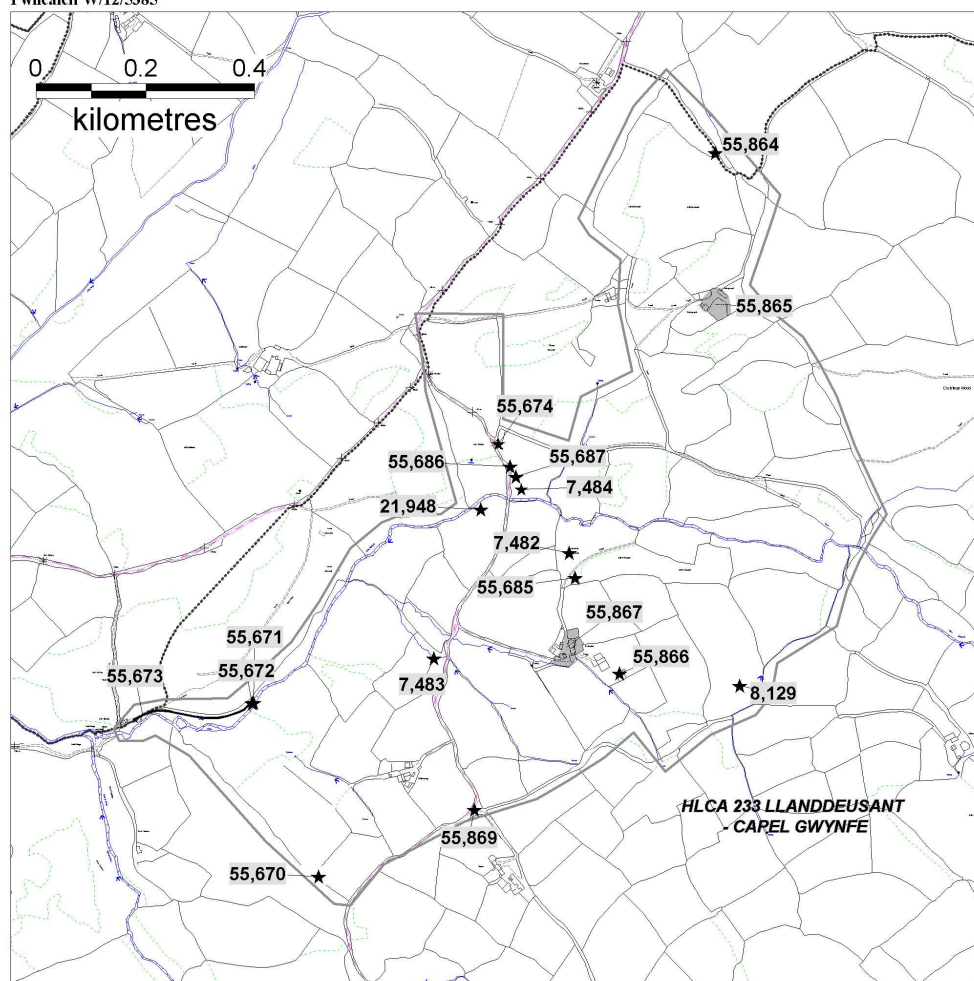
Ordnance Survey 1886 1st edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXVII.9 & 13

Ordnance Survey 1906 2nd edition 1-2500 Carmarthenshire.XXVII.9 & 13

Tithe Map 1840 Myddfai Parish

Tithe Map 1841 Llanddeusant Parish

Pwllcalch W/12/5385



—	Farm Boundary	■	Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)	—	Linear Archaeological Feature (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.