

Archaeoleg Cambria
Neuadd y Sir
Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin
SA19 6AF

Ffon 01558 823131
Ffacs 01558 823133
Ebost:
cambria@cambria.org.uk



Cambria Archaeology
The Shire Hall
Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AF

Telephone 01558 823131
Fax 01558 823133
Email:
cambria@cambria.org.uk

TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Rhyd Tir Isaf**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/5744**

**ACA Report No. 2006/82
Project Record No. 55983
Prepared by
Philip Poucher**

Other documents enclosed:

**Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape
Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.
Historic Landscape Character Areas 61 Daren, 65 Pen-Rhiw-Newydd & 100
Penrhyn-coch and Pen-Bont Rhydbeddau.**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

This farm holding lies in the valley of the Nant Silo between the small settlements of Penrhyn Coch and Pen-Bont Rhydybeddau. This area lies within the Upland Ceredigion Area of Outstanding Historic Interest, which has been further assessed as Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). 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 northern part of the holding lies within HLCA 65 Pen-Rhiw-Newydd, the central section within HLCA 100 Penrhyn-coch and Pen-Bont Rhydybeddau with the southern section within HLCA 61 Daren. The enclosure pattern in this area consists of medium to large regular enclosures of mostly improved pasture with a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and dwellings. This enclosure pattern is characteristic of later Post Medieval enclosures and was in place throughout most of the lower valley slopes within this holding by the time of the tithe map of 1845. The upper valley slopes along the southern edge of the holding was still unenclosed land at this point, the current boundaries established in the later 20th century. The farmstead of Tyn Gelli had been established by the time of the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837, more dwellings presumably attracted to the area by 19th century mining activity.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL CONTENT

Hillforts lie to the east and west of this farm holding, overlooking this small valley. This indicates settlement and activity in this area during the Iron Age although no archaeology of this date has been identified within the holding. One of the main features of the historic character of this area is the metal mining activity, remains of which are dotted throughout the valleys and upland areas. Mining is believed to have started at Daren mine to the south in the Roman period, although the main phase of activity appears to be Post Medieval. By the 17th century Daren mine was being worked again, as was Bron Floyd mine to the west of the holding, which may have spread into this holding. By the 19th century the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887/8 shows mining activity within this holding associated with both of these mines. A mine shaft (PRN 56370) with its associated workings may have been part of the adjacent Bron Floyd mine, which was also being fed by two leats (PRNs 56885 & 56886) that crossed this holding. A more extensive area of lead working (PRN 56377) at the eastern end of the holding was connected to the mining activity at the main Daren metal mine over ½ a mile to the south. Further small mine levels (PRN 56378 & 56887) have also been recorded within the holding. Agricultural settlement had been established within the holding by the 19th century, Tyn Gelli farmstead (PRN 56373) is shown on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837.

KEY OBJECTIVE

The management priority for this farm is to retain the landscape continuity, through the preservation of former metal mining activity, and through the upkeep of traditional farm buildings.

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
ALMA MINE (56370)	Post Med/ Mine shaft	SN6627383555	B	Generic
<p>A mine shaft and associated remains, labelled in Bick (1988) as Alma Mine, presumably an outlying part of Bron Floyd metal mine (PRN 5424). The history of this site is unknown. Nearby Bron Floyd was worked by Bushell and Myddelton in the 17th century, Bushell's adit is believed to lie just a short distance to the northwest. Bron Floyd was worked again in the mid to late 18th century and then finally from the 1850s until 1892 when it was finally closed. This mine shaft presumably dates to the 19th century period of working, marked as it is on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888, although there may be earlier workings on the site.</p> <p>The main shaft lies at the southern (upslope) end of the complex, with an adjacent smaller shaft lying to the west. On the northern edge of the main shaft lies a mortared stone built wheel-pit, 2.5m deep, at most 1.85m wide and c3m long although the southern end has collapsed into the shaft. To the northeast lie the remains of a mortared stone built walls enclosing an area c5m by 5m, now filled with rubble, possibly representing the remains of a mine building. Extending downslope from the main shaft is a high ridge of spoil. On the east side of which lies a flat area c12m long possibly representing a building platform, on the western side a channel runs down to another building platform. This 2nd platform is delineated by stone and earth banks, enclosing an area c6.5m by 8m. The lower hill slopes to the north are crossed by two leats (PRNs 56885 & 56886) originally providing water to the main area of working at Bron Floyd mine.</p> <p>The remains lie in a wooded corner of a pasture field, the two shafts have been fenced off. The remains appear to be reasonably well preserved although trees growing on and close to structural remains may pose a threat from root action or potential collapse. <i>Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)</i></p>				



SSE facing. The remains of the wheel-pit on the edge of the main shaft.



SE facing. The 2nd building platform, delineated by banks with the channel entering from the top right-hand side.

(56371)

**Post Med/
Aqueduct**

SN6640583649 B

Generic

An aqueduct and sluice marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. These features carry leats (PRNs 56885 & 56886) across a small stream gully, the leats go on to provide water to Bron Floyd metal mine (PRN 5424) to the west. The aqueduct carries the lower of the two leats, and survives as a small mortared stone built structure now obscured by a build up of stream washed material but suggesting it may be substantially intact underneath. The sluice, which lies above, appears to be less well preserved but also obscured by stream washed material. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*

(56372)

Post Med/ Well

SN6709283551 B

Generic

A well marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. The importance of wells prior to the advent of mains pumped water cannot be overstated. Many wells were imbued with religious and ritual significance in the past, and retained this significance until recent times. Wells often represent landscape features of some antiquity, and may retain the vestiges of stone built standing structures around them. This site lies at the head of a small stream and may have just been a simple structure providing water to the nearby Tyn Gelli farm. The site is marked only as a spring on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905.

**TYN-Y-GELLI;TYN
GELLI (56373)**

**Post Med/
Farmstead**

SN6699283673 B

Generic

A farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837. The farm buildings are still in use, although now used for sheep rather than their original function. The associated farmhouse is still standing although now abandoned and in a dilapidated condition. The traditional farm buildings are described in section ii. Farmsteads are archaeologically sensitive areas and may have seen continued occupation over a long period of time. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*

(56374) **Post Med/ Well SN6705983653 B Generic**

Two adjacent wells marked on the 1st (1887) and 2nd (1905) edition Ordnance Survey maps. The wells lie on the line of a small stream in between the farmstead of Tyn Gelli (PRN 56373) and lead works (PRN 56377) and may have been used by both. No structural elements are currently visible. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*

(56376) **Post Med/ Level SN6711483964 B Generic**

A lead mine level marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. The level is still open although now waterlogged, the spoil heap extends down the hill-slope in front of the level. It appears to have fallen out of use and become waterlogged by the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 when it is marked as both disused and a well. The history of this site is unknown. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*

DAREN MINE (56377) Post Med/ Lead SN6727483559 B Generic
works

An area of lead mine workings associated with the main Daren Lead Mine workings (PRN 8337) further to the south just over the ridge of the valley. The area around Daren lead mine appears to have been mined during the Roman period, and possibly even earlier, although this area of lead mine workings is associated with the later Post Medieval mining activity. From the 1870s Daren mine was in the hands of an engineer called Robert Girdwood who may have been responsible for setting up this area of lead workings. The layout is clearly shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887.

The ore processing, machinery buildings and buddle pits were located at the foot of the valley slopes on the south banks of Nant Silo. The features in this area have long since been cleared down to an area of hard standing. The remains of a single stone-built building lies at the eastern end of this area, now used as an agricultural store on the south side of the track. From this area a tramway climbed the valley-side to an ore hopper halfway up the slope, with an adjacent spoil tip. The line of the tramway is still visible and earthwork remains of the ore hopper and spoil tip remain. Running parallel to the tramway a pumping rod climbed the valley-side, running for over ½ a mile to Daren mine itself. The line of this rod can also be traced on the ground.

This farm holding includes the area of ore processing, machinery buildings and buddle pits, although as mentioned above this has now been cleared down to an area of hard standing. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*

(56884) **Post Med/ Quarry SN6704284068 C Generic**

The remains of a small quarry near the hilltop below Penrhiw-newydd. The site is not shown on historic map sources but is presumably Post Medieval in date. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*

(56885) **Post Med/ Leat SN6643383658 B Generic**

One of two leats on the south side of Nant Silo providing water to Bron Floyd lead mine. This is the upper of the two leats, the line of which is marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887, suggesting it runs for just over 1km. Most of the leat is still traceable, visible as a ledge up to 1.5m wide in places, although the line is difficult to follow at its eastern extremity. It is best preserved at the western end below the mine shaft (PRN 56370), where it measures 1.1m across, and filled with rubble and vegetation. The leat is revetted in earth and stone on its downslope side in places. The remains of iron posts along a short section suggest it may also have had railings along its downslope side at some point. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*



ENE facing. Looking along the line of the upper leat.

(56886)

Post Med/ Leat

SN6645183676 B

Generic

One of two leats on the south side of Nant Silo providing water to Bron Floyd lead mine. This is the lower of the two leats, its line also marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 extending for roughly 700m. The line is difficult to trace at its eastern end but is still clearly visible to the west and has been used as the lower field boundary for much of its length. The leat survives as a ledge at most 1.5m across, rock cut in places, with a rough stone downslope revetment. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*



ENE facing. Looking along the line of the lower leat.

(56887)

Post Med/ Level

SN6642783670 B

Generic

A waterlogged mine level on the banks of Nant Silo to the east of Bron Floyd metal mine workings (PRN 5424). The history of this level is not recorded and the site is not marked on historic map sources. It presumably dates to the Post Medieval period of lead mining activity in this area, although nearby Bron Floyd mine to the west has been worked at various points from the 17th century until the late 19th century. The mine entrance lies close to the base of the valley bottom, directly underneath the line of leat PRN 56886, and only slightly above the level of the nearby stream. The entrance is revetted on both sides by mortared masonry, now mostly obscured by vegetation. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*



S facing. The entrance to the mine level.

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	TY'N-Y-GELLI;TYN GELLI (<u>56373</u>)	Post Med/ Farmstead	SN6699283673	B	Specific
---	--	--------------------------------	---------------------	----------	-----------------

A farmstead complex marked on the old series Ordnance Survey map of 1837. The farm buildings are still in use, although now used for sheep rather than their original function. The associated farmhouse is still standing although now abandoned and in a dilapidated condition. The farmhouse is stone built with stone voussoirs, a slate roof and chimneys in both gable walls. The house is set slightly offset to the west from the complex of farm buildings. These farm buildings consist of two opposing ranges set on the same level with a central yard, and a 3rd range set on the south side, slightly higher up the hillslope. The buildings are mortared rubble-stone built with brick voussoirs and slate roofs.

The western range is 2 storey high, with a double fronted cartshed at the southern end and stables at the northern end. The eastern range consists of animal sheds, with pigsties on the eastern side. The original function of the southern range is unclear.

The farm buildings are still in use and have been partly restored by the owner. The roofs of the farm buildings are deteriorating in places, slates are missing from the western range, and corrugated metal sheeting is missing from the rear of the eastern range. The pigsties are out of use and overgrown. *Visited 10/07/2006 (PP)*



NW facing. The western farm building range.



ENE facing. The eastern farm building range.

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

**TYN-Y-GELLI; TYN GELLI Farmstead
(56373)**

SN6699283673

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 buildings to retain the historic character of the farmstead complex as a whole. The farm buildings are still in use, although primarily now used for sheep, and the owner has undertaken some renovation of the buildings. The roofs of the main opposing farm building ranges have loose and missing slates and corrugated iron sheets in places. The pigsties to the rear of the eastern range are out of use with trees growing both within and close to the structure.

- Roofs should be repaired using appropriate traditional materials and techniques. The buildings are generally roofed in slate although the corrugated iron sheeting on the rear of the eastern range is also likely to have been used on the roof for many years and can also be viewed as a traditional roof covering.
- Trees growing close to and within the pigsty remains pose a threat to the remaining structure from root action, falling branches and possible collapse. The tree within the pigsty should be cut back and overhanging branches trimmed back.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

PP - 14/07/2006 (11:34:35) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology Project record number 55983.

Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust), The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF.

tel (01558) 823131, fax (01558) 823133, email cambria@cambria.org.uk, website www.cambria.org.uk

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

Sources consulted:

Bick, D. 1988. The Old Metal Mines of Mid-Wales, Pt 3 Cardiganshire - North of Goginan.

Cambria Archaeology Historic Environment Record

Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.

Historic Landscape Character Areas 61 Daren, 65 Pen-Rhiw-Newydd & 100 Penrhyn-coch and Pen-Bont Rhyddedau.

Ordnance Survey 1837 Old Series 1" map, No.LIX

Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VI.8

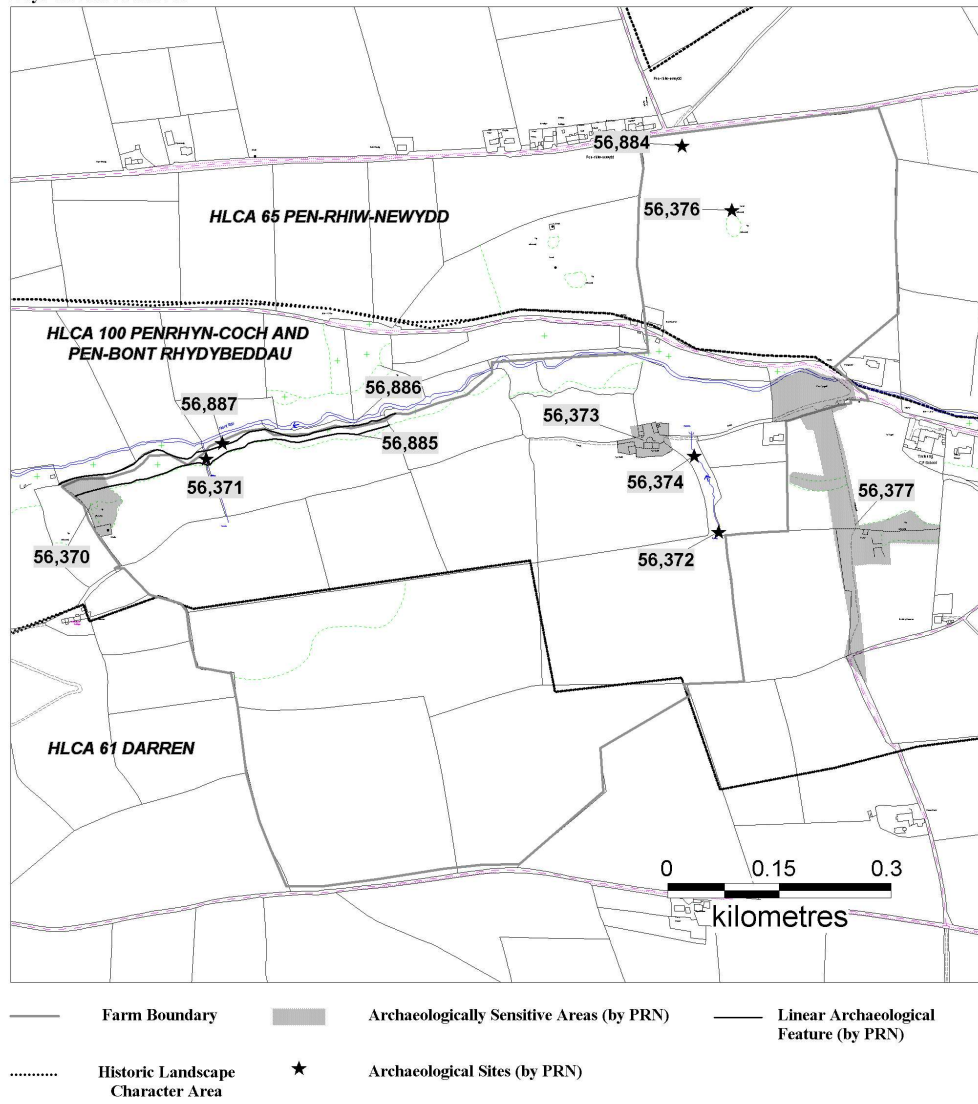
Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VI.8

Ordnance Survey 1887 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VII.5

Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.VII.5

RCAHMW. Coflein Online Database

Tithe Map 1845 Llanbadarn Fawr Parish



This map is reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by the National Assembly for Wales with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. License number: 100018813

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 61 DAREN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 681829

AREA IN HECTARES: 428.6

Historic Background

The early history of this area is not known. It did not lie within a monastic grange, as did much of the neighbouring land. By at least the 18th century, and probably considerably earlier, much of the land had been acquired by Gogerddan, Powis Castle or Court Grange estates. It is likely that for several centuries rough, unenclosed grazing characterised this area, though Daren Farm is perhaps of some antiquity. Late 18th-century estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 68, 67; Powis Castle 164; Scott Archer 20; Vol 37, 64; R.M. 108) depict almost all of this area as unenclosed. The main exception is Daren Farm, but even here the dwelling sits in a large block of unenclosed sheep-walk. An interesting map is that of 1788 (NLW R.M. 108), as the open ridge of this area has been annotated by a later hand, dividing it into a series of large, regular enclosures and new farms. The date of this alteration is not certain, but it had occurred by the tithe survey of 1845 when the whole of this area had been enclosed and several new farms established. An important element of this landscape are the remains of the metal (mainly lead) mining industry. Daren is an ancient mine, perhaps of Roman origin. It was worked in the 17th century, and though production ceased for almost a century, it was reopened throughout the 18th- and 19th-centuries. Cwm Daren and Twll y Mwyn mines also lie within this area. Though not of as great antiquity as Daren, these were worked from the 17th century with production at the latter only ceasing in 1920s (Bick 1988, 10-16). The small settlement of Daren was established to serve the lead mines in the 19th century.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area encompasses the high points and flanks of two rounded ridges: Daren and Banc Cwmerfyn. 342m is the highest point, with the flanks at the western end descending to approximately 100m. There are rocky outcrops on the summits. Apart from very steep slopes which are under rough grazing or bracken, and some peaty and rushy hollows, all farmland consists of improved grazing. There are forestry plantations and small stands of deciduous woodland on very steep slopes, but otherwise this is an essentially treeless landscape. The area has been divided into a series of large fields by banks of earth and stone. These banks were formerly topped with hedges, but apart from the lowest levels and close to farms all hedges have gone, and where they do survive they are overgrown and derelict. Wire fences now provide stock-proof boundaries, and divide the area into very large enclosures. The overall appearance is of an unenclosed landscape of improved grazing. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. Older buildings are stone-built with slate roofs, modern dwellings are of rendered concrete. Modern farm buildings are present. The remains of deserted farmsteads and cottages, surrounded by enclosures which are defined by low, broken-down stone walls, are scattered across the landscape. Evidence of the former metal mining industry is a prominent component of the landscape. Of particular note are the tips, shafts open-casts and other features that follow a vein from the its high point at Daren.

Recorded archaeology is dominated by the remains of the metal mining industry. Workings cut across Daren Iron Age hillfort, an important element in the landscape. It is prominent on account of its location on the summit of a ridge at 290m. Further time-depth to the landscape is provided by three Bronze Age standing stones and a Bronze Age round barrow. A place-name indicates the possible location of a further standing stone.

This is a distinct landscape bounded by areas with quite different characteristics. To the east lies unenclosed upland and forestry (areas 8, 19). Elsewhere is lower-lying enclosed land, sometimes with containing metal mine workings (areas 79, 100, 101, 102).

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 65 PEN-RHIW-NEWYDD

GRID REFERENCE: SN 674874

AREA IN HECTARES: 184.4

Historic Background

The early history of this area has not been researched. It may have been considered unenclosed Crown land for much of the early post-Medieval Period. By the late 18th-century at least part of it had come into the possession of the Gogerddan estate. An estate map of 1788 (NLW R.M. 108) shows the ridge to the northeast of Tyn Gelli as enclosed into two large fields, with most of the remainder unenclosed apart from three 'slangs' alongside a public road. By the mid 19th-century the whole area had been sub-divided into fields. Further sub-division took place in the second half of the 19th century. A chapel was established at Salem in 1824 (Percival 1998, 517), but no settlement developed here until after the tithe survey of 1845 (Llanbadarn tithe map and apportionment). Indeed, apart from Pantyffynnon Farm, all settlements in this area, including linear development at Salem and Pen-rhiw-newydd and isolated cottages, were established in the second half of the 19th-century. The mechanism of these foundations is not certain. They may be squatter settlements, but a date in the second half of the 19th century is rather late, and they may have been, therefore, established under the aegis of an estate or other landowner.

Description and essential historic landscape components

An east-west rounded ridge, the crest of which descends from 320m in the east to less than 150m on its western end. The lower slopes of the ridge run down to below 120m. The ridge has been divided by low earth banks and occasional dry-stone walls into a field system of regular enclosures. No hedges survive on the ridge crest, and wire fences running along the old banks and walls provide stock-proof boundaries. On the lower slopes occasional semi-derelict hedges are present, and the earth banks are somewhat more substantial here. It is essentially a treeless landscape. Improved grazing dominates, with some rougher ground on the steeper flanks of the ridge. A straight road runs along the ridge crest. The settlement pattern consists of dispersed cottages with 19th century linear development at Salem and Pen-rhiw-newydd. Older houses are stone-built with slate roofs. At Pen-rhiw-newydd there is a mixture of this older housing and modern rendered concrete and brick dwellings.

Recorded archaeology comprises metal mining remains and a small Iron Age Fort. Ridge and furrow on the ridge crest is not dated, though may indicate agricultural use of the area prior to enclosure in the late 18th- and early 19th-century.

This is a well-defined area. To the north, south and west lies lower, enclosed land with extant hedges and stands of woodland (area 100). To the east is modern forestry (area 8).

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 100 PENRHYN-COCH AND PEN-BONT RHYDYBEDDAU

GRID REFERENCE: SN 646840

AREA IN HECTARES: 381.3

Historic Background

The northern part of this area lay within Strata Florida's Y Dywarchen Grange in the Medieval Period. Traditionally the administrative centre of the grange was at Cwrt, which lies within this area. Williams (1990, 57) records a water mill and ancient barn here with gallows on the hill above. Following the Dissolution, a small independent estate - Court Farm - seems to have been carved out of the monastic lands, before being incorporated into the Gogerddan estate. The history of the small nucleated village of Penrhyn-coch is un-researched and therefore not known. It is likely that it is a late development; morphology and map evidence indicate a small settlement here until the late 19th-century. A church was not constructed until 1881 (Jones 1998, 499). It is a similar story for the smaller hamlet of Pen-bont Rhydybeddau, although this settlement seems to have been established in the 18th- and 19th-centuries to serve the metal mines in this area, and those of Cwm Daren and Twll y Mwyn located in area 61. Dispersed farmsteads represent the ancient settlement pattern of the area. These farms are likely to be of some antiquity; they certainly date to the late 18th-century, and in all probability have their origins in the Medieval Period. By the late 18th-century properties formed part of the holdings of the Gogerddan, Crosswood or Court Farm estates. Estate maps (NLW Gogerddan 67; Crosswood 345, 346; R.M. C22; Scott Archer 20; Vol 38, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14) depict several of the farms in a landscape of small, irregular fields and regular strip-like fields - essentially a landscape similar to today. Some of the fields depicted on the estate maps seem to be enclosed strips, indicating the former presence of a sub-divided field system out of which the present landscape has evolved. The 20th century has witnessed a rapid expansion in the village of Penrhyn-coch, with new housing estate, a sports field and other developments. Metal mining in this area was concentrated at Bronfloyd. This was worked in the 17th century, with its richest period in the 19th century. Production finally ceased in 1892 (Bick 1988, 26-28). The garden at Pen-y-berth Farm is recorded on the Welsh Historic Garden Database.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area is centred on the valleys of the Afon Stewi and Nant Silo, and includes the valley floors and lower slopes. There is a height range of 50m to 110m. The western end of this area is dominated by the village of Penrhyn-coch, which sprawls across the valley floors, and includes many new concrete and brick houses, some established in small estates. Away from the village, older historic components of the landscape are much in evidence. Field patterning of small irregular enclosures and regular strip-enclosures has survived intact for at least two centuries. This includes a long, distinctive boundary between enclosed strips and former unenclosed land on the north side of the Stewi valley. Field boundaries comprise earth banks topped with hedges. Close to Penrhyn-coch and on the valley floors hedges are in fair to good condition, but on the higher valley sides and towards the eastern end of the area they are becoming overgrown and derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. At the eastern end close to Broginin dry-stone walls form some of the boundaries. Farmland is now almost entirely improved grazing. There are small stands of deciduous trees, especially on the valley floors, and a small conifer plantation. Buildings of the dispersed farmsteads are traditionally stone-built with slate roofs, though a scatter of modern rendered concrete dwellings is superimposed on this. Most farms include modern steel-frame farm buildings. The hamlet of Pen-bont Rhydybeddau consists essentially of early 19th-century stone-built houses, several of which are listed for their group value. The remains of Bronfloyd lead mine, including buildings, processing floors and tips are important components of the historic landscape.

Recorded archaeology in this area mainly comprises post-Medieval extant secular and ecclesiastical buildings and metal mine remains. However, a time-depth element to the landscape is provided by a Roman coin hoard, a Bronze Age round barrow and a Bronze Age burnt mound or hearth.

To the south and north former unenclosed land (areas 61, 64, 65, 85, 86) clearly defines this landscape area. The landscape area to the west has not yet been defined, while to the east woodland and small fields of the upper valley of the Afon Stewi represent a substantially different character area.