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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Bwlch Crwys**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/5759**

**ACA Report No. 2006-120
Project Record No. 55985**

**Prepared by
William Steele**

Other documents enclosed:

**Murphy, K. & Ludlow, N. 2000: Ceredigion Historic Landscape
Characterisation. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Interest in Wales.
Historic Landscape Character Areas 47 Lletty Synod & Frongoch, 53
Bwlchcryws, 54 Rhydpererinion, 55 Rheidol Valley Woodland, 88 Rhos Rhydd
& 130 Cwmnewidion**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Bwlchcrwys consists of twelve land holdings in central Ceredigion.

The farm of Bwlchcrwys and nine other holdings lie within close proximity to one another within the communities of Melindwr, Pontarfynach and Trawsgoed. The surrounding landscape encompasses upland plateaux and rounded ridges, dissected by steep sided valleys. Apart from a 20th century small-scale conifer plantations it is essentially a treeless landscape. Almost all land is under improved grazing, though pockets of peaty and rushy ground lie in some hollows, and rough pasture is present on steep slopes. Dispersed farms and cottages form the basis of the settlement pattern, with small nucleations at Trisant and Mynydd Bach. Lead mining remains are much in evidence, particularly along the Cwmnewydion valley. The reservoirs that served them in particular are dramatic elements within the landscape.

The early history of this landscape has not been researched. By the eighteenth century it had been divided between the Crosswood and Nanteos estates. Late eighteenth and early nineteenth century estate maps show that during this period large tracts of land in this area were unenclosed sheep-walk. Farmsteads were isolated and usually possessed only one or two small fields next to the dwellings. By the time of the tithe survey of the 1840s much of the former unenclosed land had been formed into large fields and sub-division of the large enclosures had taken place. Further enclosure occurred in the latter half of the 19th century.

This landscape is recognised as being of high landscape value and falls within the Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest HLW (D) 2. This area has been further assessed as part of the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, and falls within areas 47: Lletty Synod & Frongoch, 53: Bwlchcrwys, 54 Rhydpererinion, 55 Rheidol Valley Woodland, 88 Rhos Rhydd and 130 Cwmnewidion.

Lying some 8km to the west, close to the settlement of Llanilar, are two other holdings. The landscape here encompasses a series of rounded hills between the Ystwyth and Rheidol valleys with deciduous woodland along some of the steeper slopes. Improved pasture predominates with dispersed farms forming the basis of the settlement pattern. The early history of this landscape has not been researched. Small, irregular fields contrast with much later straight sided enclosures on higher or more marginal land which were probably established under systematic, estate influenced enclosure at a much later date. Iron Age hillforts are a relatively common landscape component of the area.

Archaeological and Historic Content

This farm incorporates a rich and varied range of archaeological features across a number of holdings.

Three burial mounds (PRNs 2058, 2063, 62073) attest to occupation dating back over 3500 years. These mounds of earth and stone represent the dominant burial tradition during the Bronze Age (2000-600 BC). When excavated they have been found to contain cist lined inhumation burials or cremation burials, the ashes being contained in pottery urns of various types. Two of these sites are now designated as scheduled ancient monuments (SAM CD122, 124).

For centuries, the local landscape has been characterised by scattered farms and small hamlets. Late eighteenth and early nineteenth century estate maps show much of the area remaining as unenclosed sheep-walk with isolated farmsteads usually possessing one or two small fields. At Bwlchcrwys in 1764 (NLW Nanteos 312) the boundary of the farm seems to have been demarcated by a bank, hedge or fence, but no internal divisions were present and the farmhouse was located in ground labelled 'Clear Open Ground' and 'Turbary' (Murphy 1999). The situation had not changed significantly when the tithe survey was undertaken in 1847. Further enclosure occurred in the latter half of the 19th century.

Numerous smaller settlement sites are scattered about the hills of Pen Felin-wynt and Rhos Rhydd to the south, many of which would undoubtedly have been the homes of miners, attracted by the growth of the lead mines in the 19th century. After the closure of the mines in the early 20th century, many of these homes were abandoned as people moved elsewhere to find work. Low wall footings and relict field boundaries are all that remain of many of these sites today.

Lead mining remains are much in evidence. Occupying the steep flanks and valley floor of Cwmnewydion close to the most southerly point of the farm (holding W115759h) are the scars and derelict remains of Graig Goch mine (PRN 25917), the most westerly of the workings on the Frongoch lode. The mine closed in 1889.

Situated nearby, though unrelated are the ruins of the old Pont Ceunant generator house (PRN 24576). The power station was built by a Belgian company in 1888 to supply electricity for the much larger Frongoch/ Wemyss mines to the east. On the hill to the north (holding W115759g), 100m above Cwm Newydion, are the earthworks of the reservoir which supplied water to the turbines (PRN 62085). This in turn was fed by a leat from Pond Rhos-rhydd to the north (PRN 62089). The generator was responsible for providing the first electricity in the area long before nationalisation made it widespread and as such is of regional if not national significance.

Further archaeological content is discussed in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

This farm has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. Of utmost importance is the preservation of those elements which have been recognised as being regionally and nationally significant; i.e. round barrows (PRNs 2058, 2063); ring barrow (PRN 62073); Pont ceunant generator house (PRN 24576).

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	BWLCH-Y-CRWYS <u>(2058)</u>	Bronze Age round barrow	SN71027760	A SAM	Specific
A scheduled round barrow. The mound is approximately 24m diameter, 1.6m high on a crest within an improved pasture field. It remains in excellent condition.					



Facing south towards the round barrow. From Ddu beyond.

- 2 **FRON DDU** ([2063](#)) **Bronze Age round barrow** **SN70227698** **A** **SAM** **Specific**

A scheduled round barrow, measuring approximately 13m diameter, standing 1.4m high. It occupies a position at the head of a small valley running north-east, and lies in short pasture with a few thistles. A slight dip in the centre may well be due to superficial disturbance by animals rather than robbing. Otherwise it is in good condition.



Facing north. The round barrow remains in excellent condition.

- 3 **PONT CEUNANT**
GENERATOR HOUSE ([24576](#)) **Post Medieval engine house** **SN706743** **B** **Specific**

Generator house, built to serve the Frongoch mines in 1898. L-shaped in plan, built of local stone in rough courses. The quoins and windows are in red brick.

On the hill to the north are the earthworks of the large reservoir (PRN 62084) which supplied water to the turbines. This reservoir was in turn fed by a leat from Llyn Frongoch to the north-east.

The generator house is now roofless but substantially intact though red bricks around door and windows have been robbed out. Large quantities of domestic and other waste have been dumped into the north end of the building where it fronts onto the roadside. Mature trees and light vegetation have colonised the east and south sides of the building.

The generator house is an important and distinctive landmark with an interesting history. As such it is a feature of regional if not national historic importance.



Facing east to Pont Ceunant generator house.

5 COED RHOS-RHYDD Post Medieval SN70557505 C Specific
[\(62087\)](#) **plantation**

Forestry plantation fringing the western bank of Pond Glan-dwgan comprising mixed deciduous and coniferous woodland. Recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888) where it is identified as Coed Rhos-rhydd. It was presumably planted to serve the local lead mines - an industry that consumed large quantities of timber for a variety of purposes. Now much reduced with only sparse and localised tree cover.



Surviving trees of the plantation, depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888).

PEN-Y-CEFN [\(9350\)](#) Post Medieval SN72217604 B Generic
cottage

Shown as an occupied cottage on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). The cottage has since been demolished with the building platform (7m E-W by 5m N-S) now only vaguely discernible. Relict enclosure banks survive to the south. The site lies within improved pasture land, scrubby trees are present in the immediate vicinity.



Facing west towards the former cottage site of Pen-y-cefn.

CRAIG GOCH QUARRY	Post Medieval	SN70457400	C	Generic
(19783)	quarry			

A minor quarry shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Site not visited.

UNKNOWN	Post Medieval	SN71027732	C	Generic
(19798)	quarry			

Minor quarry recorded for the first time on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map (1905). A semi-circular cut into a hill slope, measuring approximately 24m wide x 6m deep x 2m high.



Facing south towards the quarry.

UNKNOWN	Post Medieval	SN71257729	C	Generic
(19799)	quarry			

A small quarry shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Cut into a hill slope, measuring approximately 12m wide x 8m deep x 2m high. Spoil and other debris lies to the south.

UNKNOWN	Post Medieval	SN70637608	C	Generic
(19804)	quarry			

Redundant quarry lying some 200m to the north of Rhos-rhydd farmstead. It is apparent as a semi-circular shaped depression in outcropping bedrock, measuring approximately 16m wide x 12m wide x 4m high. The site is now hidden within light woodland.

PEN FELIN-WYNT	Post Medieval	SN72697609	B	Generic
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[\(19811\)](#)

windmill

The Felinwynt placename suggests that a windmill once stood here, but no detail of such a structure is recorded. A cottage is recorded here on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887.

It is a popular local belief that a circular earthen bank lying approximately 100m southwest of the cottage is the site where the windmill once stood. The shape and size of the feature is consistent with it being a ring barrow (Bronze Age burial mound) however (PRN 62073).

**COED CWM-
NEWYDDION** [\(20990\)](#)

**Post Medieval
sheep fold**

SN70357455 B

Generic

A circular fold, consisting of a circular enclosure measuring 22m in diameter with an entrance approximately 2.5m wide in the north side. It is defined by a single bank faced with stone, approximately 2.0m wide and 0.6m high. Internally the area is flat. Rough grassland now covers the site.



The sheep fold remains well preserved. View from the north.

**BANC CWM
NEWYDION** [\(24574\)](#)

**Post Medieval
leat?;mining
feature?**

SN700737 C

Generic

An old leat associated with Craig Goch lead mine. Site not visited.

**GRAIG
GOCH;CWMNEWYDDION;RED
ROCK;LISBURNE** [\(25917\)](#)

**Post Medieval
lead mine;zinc
mine**

SN705741 B CTL

Generic

Lead mine situated on the floor and lower slopes of Cwm Newyddion. The documentary history of the mine dates only from 1840 but there was evidence of earlier workings. The mine closed in 1889 (Bick 1976). The remains include wheelpits, crusher houses, shafts and levels, spoil tips and slime pits. The mine now lies within an area of improved pasture, grazed by sheep. No specific management threats identified.



Facing south to the remains of the lead mine.

COED CWM
NEWYDION ([27936](#)) **Medieval?;Post** **SN70637431** **U** **Generic**
Medieval? ridge
and furrow

An area of undated ridge and furrow cultivation adjacent to fold (PRN 20990). The earthworks are of varying width and run in several different directions. Would benefit from a detailed survey.

([56386](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7042577319** **C** **Generic**
explosives store

Explosive store serving Allt fedw (PRN 25892) and other Rheidol valley lead mines. A small rectangular building marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888 on the edge of open moorland. It is rubble stone built, measuring approximately 6m N-S x 5m E-W with a doorway in the north wall and a modern lean-to roof. Said by the owners to have had a pitched slate roof and wooden slatted floor originally.

([56387](#)) **Post Medieval well** **SN7074677551** **B** **Generic**

Two adjacent wells marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1888. No surface traces remain. The given location is within an area of improved pasture.

([56389](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7076677382** **B** **Generic**
quarry

Identified as "Old Quarry" on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). A sub-circular extraction site, approximately 12m by 20m by 3m high. Access from the east. Under pasture now.

([56390](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7079177189** **B** **Generic**
quarry

A semi-circular quarry approximately 17m diameter and 1.5m deep now covered by tussock grass and pasture. Recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888).

PANT-YR-HEOL ([56391](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7253076295** **B** **Generic**
cottage

Former cottage site shown set within a system of paddocks and enclosures on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). Now evidenced by the spread wall footings of a rectangular, two cell structure with no traces of internal subdivisions. Some mature trees have colonised the area. In improved pasture land.

([56392](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7235976159** **B** **Generic**
cottage

Un-named cottage recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). It is now represented only by the grassed over footings of the buildings, arranged in a tight U-plan. Some mature beech trees have colonised the area. In improved pasture land.

BWLCH ([56393](#))

**Post Medieval
cottage**

SN7248376150 B

Generic

Possibly three adjoining cottages below Pen Felin-wynt, remembered by the family of the present farmer, and now with few discernible traces remaining. The grassed over wall bases of what was presumably the southernmost cottage survive (7m NE x 5m SW) used until recently as a platform for a tin shed. The site is within an area of improved pasture land.



Looking south-west along the line of the three former cottages known as Bwlch. Few clear surface traces now remain.

TAN-Y-GRAIG ([56395](#))

**Post Medieval
cottage**

SN7208975838 B

Generic

A now ruinous cottage and outbuilding, shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Now reduced to stone foundations with only part of the south gable wall still standing. The rock cut traces of a narrow outbuilding lie a few metres behind to the west. Relict enclosure banks, presumably identifying the garden lie to the east. A number of mature trees are now scattered about. In a pasture field.

([56396](#))

**Post Medieval
building**

SN7166075955 U

Generic

Recorded as an abandoned cottage on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (1905). No visible trace of the dwelling survives. The cottage is believed locally to have been known as Felin-wynt although there is no other mention of a windmill in the immediate vicinity.

LAN-LWYD ([56397](#))

**Post Medieval
cottage**

SN7189875569 B

Generic

Shown as Lan-lwyd on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1888). A long since abandoned cottage, the remains now lying within a forestry plantation. Low spread wall bases now demarcate the site of the house. There is a hollow way and a collection of relict enclosure boundaries nearby.



Facing north-west to the wall bases of the former cottage.

[\(56398\)](#) **Post Medieval well SN7215575723 B Generic**

A well marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1889). Site not visited.

LLETHR-MEIRCH **Post Medieval SN7224275655 B Generic**
[\(56399\)](#) **farmstead**

Farmstead with byre, granary and stables attached. Recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map 1888. Not examined in detail.

[\(56400\)](#) **Post Medieval well SN7260475311 B Generic**

Recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition serving nearby Pen-y-bylchau. At the head of a natural stream course. No evidence for any built structure remains.

BWLCH-YR-ADERYN **Post Medieval SN7110575840 B Generic**
[\(56405\)](#) **cottage**

Cottage identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). No trace of the dwelling, enclosures or trackways that served it remain. A lone ash tree in an open field is the only suggestion that a dwelling once existed. In improved pasture land.

[\(56409\)](#) **Post Medieval SN7053875689 C Generic**
quarry

Minor quarry recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888) now part of a much larger extraction site. The quarry is still in use.

[\(56410\)](#) **Post Medieval SN7069974884 C Generic**
quarry

A quarry in woodland recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1888. Site not visited.

CASTELL [\(56414\)](#) **Post Medieval SN7181475350 B Generic**
cottage

Former cottage site now evidenced by a level building platform (7m N-S x 4m E-W) and relict enclosure banks. Marked as abandoned on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1905). In a pasture field.

[\(56415\)](#) **Post Medieval SN7186575180 B Generic**
enclosure

A small square enclosure of unspecified function marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). A level scrape (20m N-S by 14m E-W) in gently sloping ground marks the site although no features of the same dimensions as the enclosure were identified.

[\(56620\)](#) **Post Medieval well SN71127648 C Generic**

A well is marked at this location on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Present condition

unknown. No obvious traces of the well survive.

NANT-RHIW-GENAU (56621)	Post Medieval cottage	SN69747610	C	Generic
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Cottage shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1887). Site not visited. Recent aerial photographic evidence suggests that the cottage has been destroyed.

CYFFIAU (62060)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7292476484	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into a slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU (62061)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7291976486	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU (62062)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7291576487	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU (62063)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7290776487	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU (62064)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7290576488	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.



Facing west past several of the sunken shelters.

CYFFIAU (62065)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7290276490	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU (62066)	Post Medieval sunken shelter	SN7289376492	C	Generic
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One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU ([62067](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7288776493** **C** **Generic**
sunken shelter

One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU ([62068](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7288376490** **C** **Generic**
sunken shelter

One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU ([62069](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7287776488** **C** **Generic**
sunken shelter

One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU ([62070](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7287576488** **C** **Generic**
sunken shelter

One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

CYFFIAU ([62071](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7286676489** **C** **Generic**
sunken shelter

One of several narrow scoops cut into slope near Cyffiau; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In short pasture with scattered scrubby trees present.

([62072](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN7257976079** **C** **Generic**
quarry

Semi-circular quarry 6m long x 4m wide x 1.8m high cut into a natural rock outcrop. Spoil deposited downslope.

PEN FELIN-WYNT ([62073](#)) **Post Medieval ring** **SN72607601** **A** **Generic**
barrow

Situated on the north-facing lee of a hilltop known as Pen Felin-wynt. A circular earthen bank approximately 15m in diameter, 0.4m high with an average width of 2.5m. Under stable pasture, grazed by sheep. The earthwork is believed locally to have been a windmill base. There is no further evidence to verify this at this stage.



Facing north past the ring barrow.

([62074](#)) **Post Medieval** **SN72567616** **C** **Generic**
quarry?; level?

Either a quarry or a trial level associated with 19th century lead mining activity. Two rock cut incisions into a steep slope. Spoil tips downslope.

[\(62075\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN7057874650** **C** **Generic**
quarry

Rectangular scrape in an east facing slope, approximately 10m long x 6m wide x 1.5m deep. In an area of rough grazing, partially obscured by scrub.

[\(62076\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN70577469** **C** **Generic**
shelter

On level ground above a steep slope. The remains of a shelter 3m N-S by 2.5m E-W. No obvious entrance. Possibly settlement related activity associated with ridge and furrow (PRN 27936) nearby. In an area of rough pasture, partially obscured by bracken.

[\(62077\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN70247636** **D** **Generic**
platform

Possible platform, approximately 11m x 8m on an east-west axis, terraced into a steep slope above a stream in improved land that has been subject to periodic ploughing. Possibly settlement related.



Facing south-west towards the possible platform, eroded by successive years of ploughing.

RHOS-RHYDD ISAF **Post Medieval** **SN70217525** **C** **Generic**
[\(62078\)](#) **cottage?**

The slight earthwork remains of a rectangular enclosure and platform, now much denuded by ploughing. Observed in low light condition while looking down from high ground to the north. Possibly a settlement site. Commented by the landowner to be on or near to the site of the old abandoned settlement of Rhos-rhydd Isaf.

RHOS-Y-GORLAN **Post Medieval** **SN7245475614** **C** **Generic**
[\(62079\)](#) **sunken shelter**

One of several narrow scoops cut into a low bank south of Rhos-y-gorlan; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In rough grazing land.

RHOS-Y-GORLAN **Post Medieval** **SN7245675612** **C** **Generic**
[\(62080\)](#) **sunken shelter**

One of several narrow scoops cut into a low bank south of Rhos-y-gorlan; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In rough grazing land.

RHOS-Y-GORLAN **Post Medieval** **SN7245375607** **C** **Generic**
[\(62081\)](#) **sunken shelter**

One of several narrow scoops cut into a low bank south of Rhos-y-gorlan; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In rough grazing land.

RHOS-Y-GORLAN **Post Medieval** **SN7245375622** **C** **Generic**
[\(62082\)](#) **sunken shelter**

One of several narrow scoops cut into a low bank south of Rhos-y-gorlan; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In rough grazing land.

RHOS-Y-GORLAN **Post Medieval** **SN7245075600** **C** **Generic**
[\(62083\)](#) **sunken shelter**

One of several narrow scoops cut into a low bank south of Rhos-y-gorlan; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In rough grazing land.

RHOS-Y-GORLAN **Post Medieval** **SN7244775603** **C** **Generic**
[\(62084\)](#) **sunken shelter**

One of several narrow scoops cut into a low bank south of Rhos-y-gorlan; averaging 4m by 0.5m wide overall with a spoil mound downslope of scoop. Probably potato clamps. In rough grazing land.

BANC CWM **Post Medieval** **SN70657471** **C** **Generic**
NEWYDION [\(62085\)](#) **reservoir**

0.8Ha reservoir, now dry, the sluice having been breached. Built as a holding pond in 1898 to supply the turbines of Pont Ceunant generator house below. The reservoir was fed by a leat from Llyn Frongoch to the north-east. Rough grassland now covers the earthworks.



Facing east across the dry reservoir.

FRONGOCH MINE **Post Medieval leat** **SN70817597** **C** **Generic**
[\(62088\)](#)

An old leat that carried water to Pond Rhos-rhydd, apparently for the Frongoch mines. Not examined in detail. The leat crosses improved pasture land.

FRONGOCH MINE **Post Medieval leat** **SN70567522** **C** **Generic**
[\(62089\)](#)

An old leat that carried water between Pond Rhos-rhydd and Pond Glan-Dwgan, apparently for the Frongoch mines. Site not visited.

FRONGOCH MINE **Post Medieval leat** **SN70687545** **C** **Generic**
[\(62090\)](#)

An old leat that carried water to Pond Glan-Dwygan, apparently for the Frongoch mines. Site not visited.

FRONGOCH MINE **Post Medieval leat** **SN70637463** **C** **Generic**
[\(62091\)](#)

An old leat that carried water to the holding reservoir for the Pont Ceunant generator house. Site not visited.

FRONGOCH MINE **Post Medieval leat** **SN70787539** **C** **Generic**
[\(62092\)](#)

An old leat that carried water to the Pont Ceunant generator house. Now dry but substantially intact. The leat crosses rough grazing land.

RHOS-RHYDD ISAF (62093)	Post Medieval cottage	SN70537541 C	Generic
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Recorded as "old garden and slang" on the parish tithe map and schedule (1847). In the same general area as Rhos-rhydd Isaf recorded on the Ordnance Survey Old Series map (1834). This site was not visited.

(62094)	Post Medieval cemetery?	SN70147478 U	Generic
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The present owners report a tradition of burials in this area. There is no other information and no visible evidence of anything on the ground.

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

BWLCH-Y-CRWYS ([2058](#))

SN71027760

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

The condition of the monument is much the same as described during previous visits by Cadw with no obvious management concerns identified. The management aim within Tir Gofal is the continued sensitive management of the round barrow. The following recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

- to ensure that any future ploughing operations in the area adjacent to the monument are kept outside the scheduled area. The scheduled area is a circle of diameter 30m centred on the mound. Ideally a buffer of at least five metres from the base of the mound should be excluded from ploughing.

- to continue to control stock at a level that will prevent breakdown of grass cover and erosion.

Please note: any works, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding, or covering up a monument must have scheduled monument consent, e.g. infilling of erosion, fencing, ploughing.

Cutting of vegetation does not require scheduled monument consent.

Site 2 on MAP 1

FRON DDU ([2063](#))

SN70227698

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

The condition of the monument is much the same as described during previous visits by Cadw with no obvious management concerns identified. The management aim within Tir Gofal is the continued sensitive management of the round barrow. The following recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

- to ensure that any future ploughing operations in the area adjacent to the monument are kept outside the scheduled area. The scheduled area is a circle of diameter 20m centred on the mound. Ideally a buffer of at least five metres from the base of the mound should be excluded from ploughing.

- to continue to control stock at a level that will prevent breakdown of grass cover and erosion.

Please note: any works, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding, or covering up a monument must have scheduled monument consent, e.g. infilling of erosion, fencing, ploughing.

Cutting of vegetation does not require scheduled monument consent.

Site 3 on MAP 1

**PONT CEUNANT GENERATOR HOUSE
([24576](#))**

SN706743

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

The management aim within Tir Gofal is to slow down the deterioration of the generator house and to enhance its appearance.

- The long term survival of the generator house could be greatly improved by taking steps to control vegetation:

Options to consider

- Control vegetation growing on or around the building - especially climbing species with invasive roots such as ivy.
- Do not pull out roots which have already invaded the stonework.
- Monitor mature trees close to the structure. Remove specimens that appear unstable or threaten the stability of the building.
- Only undertake work if it is considered safe to do so.

The generator house has been used as a site for dumping domestic and other waste in the past.

- Remove waste taking care not to damage the building in the process.
- Fencing out the generator house has been suggested to assist stock management and as a deterrent to further dumping. It is important that regular grazing continues to prevent scrub and tree growth. Fencing the engine house out would be of little overall benefit to the continued sensitive management of the site and is not considered essential.

It is known that other initiatives have been looked at through Ceredigion County Council to enhance the condition and setting of the generator house. It is important that any such initiatives work with Tir Gofal to achieve these ends. For more details please contact Cambria.

Site 5 on MAP 1

COED RHOS-RHYDD ([62087](#))

SN70557505

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

Tree planting has been proposed as part of Tir Gofal capital works options.

- Ensure that new planting follows the extent of that shown on historic maps (OS 1888, 1905).
- Replacement planting should be undertaken on a like for like basis, matching the profile of existing species.
- New planting should not interfere with existing archaeological sites. A minimum five metre buffer zone should be observed.

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
4	RHOS-RHYDD (62086)	Post Medieval combination farm building	SN70607585	B	Specific
	<p>A long stone and slate range on the north side of the farmyard at Rhos-rhydd comprising (from left to right) stables with hay loft, threshing floor and cart house with granary, with many original characteristics remaining: stalls, feeding troughs and mangers in the stable; cobble or slate flag floors throughout, and louvered openings to the granary. A pitched cobbled walkway runs along the front of the building. The level of surviving original detail makes this an unusually intact example. Of regional importance.</p> <p>The building is substantially intact but requires attention to the roof if it is to be made weatherproof. A number of slates above the threshing barn part are missing or displaced and there is deterioration to the roof timbers.</p>				
	BWLCH-Y-CRWYS (56388)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7121977384	B	Generic
	<p>A farmstead of 19th century estate type, one of the only Gogerddan estate farms in the area. Comprises two attached stone and slate ranges which form an L-plan with the house to the east of the open yard. The OS 1st edition (1888) shows a former pond below the house and a number of surrounding shelter belt plantations. The farmstead has been little altered since this time though several modern sheds have been added. The historic buildings include cow sheds, a large threshing barn and a lofted cart house and stables, all well maintained and not having been subjected to extensive modifications.</p>				
	RHOS-RHYDD (56406)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN7061075834	B	Generic
	<p>Semi-formal 19th century U-plan farmstead, one of the Crosswood Estate farms. The present farmstead is said to have replaced an earlier site when Pond Rhos-rhydd was created. The farmstead is presently unoccupied but is relatively well maintained.</p> <p>The house has a slate clad two storey, three window front and an outshut to the rear, concealing elements of an earlier build within. To the north is a yard with outbuildings on the three other sides: to the north, a threshing barn/ stable and cart house range, to the west a cow house, and to the east a pigsty/ storage shed. Buildings are of stone and slate construction with stone dressings to door and window openings relating to a single phase of construction. Much original internal detail remains (eg. wooden stalls in the cow shed, stalls, feeding troughs and mangers in the stable), making this a rare unaltered example of a planned 19th century farmstead. The layout is unchanged since at least 1847 when it is depicted on the tithe drawing for Llanfihangel Y Creuddyn parish.</p>				
	CWM-MWYDION-CANOL (56411)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN6993874270	B	Generic
	<p>Disused dwelling and in-line farm buildings of probable pre-nineteenth century date. The site was not examined in detail. Would benefit from a detailed survey. The farmstead requires attention if it is to be maintained in a weatherproof condition.</p>				



Cwm-mwydion-canol farmstead as seen from the south-west.

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 4 on MAP 1

RHOS-RHYDD ([62086](#))

SN70607585

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

Building restoration is proposed under Tir Gofal capital works options.

The level of surviving original detail makes this an unusually intact example of a nineteenth century combination range. As such it is of regional importance. A number of slates above the threshing barn part are missing or displaced and there is deterioration to the roof timbers.

- Care should be taken to re-use the maximum number of old slates possible. New slates should, ideally match the type, colour, texture, size and thickness of the existing ones.
- Old slates from less prominent rear pitch can be re-used on the front pitch to retain its visual appearance and historic fabric. Either Welsh or Spanish replacement slates can be used.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

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

**WS - 25/10/2006 (17:36:54) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology
Project record number 55985.
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www.cambria.org.uk**

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

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire
Ordnance Survey Old Series Map 1834 Sheet 57, 1"
Ordnance Survey 1887/8 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.XI.2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 & 14.
Ordnance Survey 1905 2nd edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.XI.2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11 & 14.
Ordnance Survey 1888 1st edition 1-2500 Cardiganshire.X.6, 7, 10 & 11
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Tithe Map & Apportionment 1847 Llanfihangel-y-Creiddyn parish
Bick, D.E. 1976 The Old Metal Mines of Mid-Wales. Part 3 Cardiganshire- North of Goginan. The
Poud House, Newent, Glos
Murphy, K. 1999 Upland Ceredigion Historic Landscape Characterisation. A Cambria Archaeology
Report Grant Aided by Cadw. Historic Landscape Character Areas 47 Lletty Synod & Frongoch, 53
Bwlchcryws, 54 Rhydpererinion, 55 Rheidol Valley Woodland, 88 Rhos Rhydd & 130 Cwmnewidion

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 47 LLETY SYNOD AND FRONGOCH

GRID REFERENCE: SN 722745

AREA IN HECTARES: 761.3

Historic Background

Llantrisant Church with its three early Christian monuments was the focus of Christian worship for this area in the Dark Ages. It did not develop into a parish church, and by the early 19th-century was neglected. The present building is late 19th-century. The settlement focus by then had shifted to Trisant where chapels and a school had been constructed. The early history of this landscape area has not been researched. Part of its southeastern corner lay within Strata Florida Abbey's upland grange of Cwmystwyth, as a document drawn up in 1545-50 on the Dissolution of the monastery records the farm of Dol-y-gors (Morgan 1991). It would seem by this date the grange was divided and leased into farms which were farmed on an individual and commercial basis. Dol-y-gors was acquired by the Herbert family, eventually passing into the Hafod estate. In the 16th century Morris ap Richard was busily acquiring farms and land to add to the embryonic Trawscoed estate. Amongst his purchases in this area were the farms of Llety Synod and Llwynwnwch, bordering on Frongoch (Morgan 1997, 35). Other purchases must have been made by Morris or his descendants as much of this area had been incorporated into the Trawscoed estate by the late 18th-century. Trawscoed estate maps of 1781 (NLW Crosswood Deeds No 5, Ser IV, Vol 1; 22 and 24), showing Frongoch, Llety Synod, Blaen-pentre, Cerrig-yr-wyn, Ty'n bwlch and Llwynwnwch, depict a landscape of scattered, isolated farms adjacent to which are one or two small enclosures and surrounded by a few large hay fields, open moor and turbary. The situation had not changed significantly when the tithe survey was undertaken in 1847 (Llanfihangel y Creiddyn parish).

Lead and zinc mining, centred on Frongoch, is an important element of the historic landscape. Up to the 1790s mining here was a small-scale affair, but the operation expanded rapidly under the promotion of John Probert (Bick 1986, 7), but did not achieve its full potential until 1834 when the Lisburne Mines company was formed (Bick, 1974, 13). An engine house was built and other improvements made. In 1899 a Belgian firm took over the running and made further improvements, but by 1910 mining had virtually ceased. Bick (1974, 16) describes Frongoch as containing 'probably the best collection of 19th century mine buildings in Wales.'

Description and essential historic landscape components

This large and complex area consists of an undulating plateau ranging in height from 220m to 340m, with peaty hollows and occasional craggy outcrops and peaks. Almost all the land comprises improved grazing, though peaty and rushy patches can be found in valley bottoms and rougher grazing on some steep slopes. Apart from conifer plantations and small stands of broadleaf woodland, it is virtually a treeless landscape. Settlement is of dispersed farmsteads, with a small nucleation at Trisant. Deserted farmsteads and cottages are evident in the landscape. Older buildings are traditionally stone-built and slate roofed, but modern rendered concrete structures are present. Field patterning consists of large, irregular enclosures. These have been formed from earth banks, but these are now redundant or topped with wire fences. Closer to farms enclosures are smaller, but still irregular, with occasional hedges on the earth banks. These hedges are not in good condition and are rarely stock-proof - all are supplemented with wire. The physical remains of mining are much in evidence and form an important element of the historic landscape. Frongoch mine buildings are of national importance, though sadly in a poor state of preservation. The site is now used as a timber yard. Associated with the mine are further landscape components such as spoil heaps, reservoirs and leats. The reservoirs in particular are dramatic elements of the landscape.

Recorded archaeology of this area is dominated by the metal mining industry, and by deserted farmsteads and cottages. A Bronze Age round barrow and a hearth or burnt mound - a possible settlement site - of similar date provide a time-depth to the landscape. This is emphasised by the three early Christian monuments at Llantrisant, and by the place-name Llety Synod, which may indicate a Medieval hospice.

It is the mining component of this Historic Landscape Area which defines it from its neighbours. Only to the southwest, area 130 Cwmnewidion, are mining features present. To the north is the more settled area 54, to the west higher formerly unenclosed land of areas 88 and 99, to the south and east the squatter settlements of 121 and 128, and to the southeast lower-lying enclosed land of area 48.

Ground photographs: 41, 42

Aerial Photographs: 54, 55, 56, 57

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 53 BWLCHCRWYS

GRID REFERENCE: SN 701771

AREA IN HECTARES: 834.0

Historic Background

As with neighbouring areas, the early history of this area has not been researched. By the 18th century it had been divided between the Crosswood and Nanteos estates. Late 18th- and early-19th century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Deeds No. 5, Ser IV, Vol 1, 16; NLW Vol 45, 31 32, 39, 41; NLW Nanteos 349 and 312) show that during this period large tracts of land in this area were unenclosed sheep-walk - Cefn Garreg, Cefn Banal and Banc Cae Magwr. Farmsteads were isolated and usually possessed one or two small fields next to the dwellings set in a sea of unenclosed sleep-walk, or as at Cennant small fields adjacent to the farm and larger enclosures further out. In some instances farms did not even have paddocks or small fields. At Bwlchcrwys in 1764 (NLW Nanteos 312) the boundary of the farm seems to have been demarcated by a bank, hedge or fence, but no internal divisions were present and the farmhouse was located in ground labelled 'Clear Open Ground' and 'Turbary'. By the time of the tithe survey of the 1840s much of the former unenclosed land had been formed into large fields and sub-division of the large enclosures had taken place. Further enclosure occurred in the latter half of the 19th century.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This moderately large landscape area consists of several east-west aligned, rounded ridges which achieve a height of 340m, separated by valleys at 200-280m. Apart from 20th century small-scale conifer plantations it is essentially a treeless landscape. Almost all land is under improved grazing, though pockets of peaty and rushy ground lie in some hollows, and rough pasture is present on steep slopes. Old field boundaries comprise earth banks. No hedges are present except for occasional derelict and/or overgrown examples close to farmsteads. Wire fences now divided the area into large and very large enclosures; some fences follow the old bank boundaries. The overall appearance of this area, especially when seen from a distance, is of improved, unenclosed land. Dispersed farms and cottages characterise the settlement pattern. Two chapels testify to the relatively high population level. Buildings are stone-built with slate roofs. Evidence of small-scale mining is present; small reservoirs are presumably associated with these mines. Crossing the area from west to east is the A4120. This former turnpike road was the main route to the east out of west Wales prior to the construction of a new turnpike - the present A 44 - in 1829 (Coyler 1984, 180).

Recorded archaeology in this area provides time-depth for the landscape. Two Bronze Age round barrows and a possible third are present. An Iron Age hillfort is located to the northeast of the area, and earthworks in the northwest are probable evidence of a second. Most of the archaeological remains are associated with the metal mining industry, though old quarries are a distinctive feature of the landscape, and the place-name Felinwynt probably refers to the site of a windmill.

To the north the bounds of this area are particularly well-defined against the steep and heavily wooded valley side of the Rheidol (area 55). The deep valley of Cwm Magwr defines the area to the southwest. To the northeast area 87 consists of small fields and a nucleated settlement, and to the east area 78 was formerly unenclosed land. Area 54 to the south contains a denser scatter of settlements and (mostly) intact old field system. Squatter settlement 128 lies to the east.

Ground photographs: 48, 49, 50, 54, 55

Aerial Photographs: 55, 67, 68, 69, 71

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 54 RHYDPERERINION

GRID REFERENCE: SN 719761

AREA IN HECTARES: 252.6

Historic Background

As with neighbouring areas the early history of this area has not been investigated, and is therefore not known. Unlike some of the neighbouring areas, it was not part of a grange of Strata Florida Abbey. By the 18th century it was divided between the estates of Crosswood and Nanteos. Early 19th-century estate maps (NLW Vol 45; 30, 31) show a landscape of scattered farms, each surrounded by small fields, with larger enclosures and unenclosed sheep-walk further out and, except for sub-division of the larger fields and enclosure of parts of the sheep-walk, this pattern had changed little by the tithe survey of 1847. Gradually over the remainder of the 19th century the remaining unenclosed land was converted into fields.

Description and essential historic landscape components

An undulating plateau area ranging in height from 290m to 270m. Most of the ground now comprises improved grazing, but there are peaty hollows and rougher grazing on steep slopes. All the land is enclosed or has been subjected to enclosure, but the fields on the higher slopes and summits now tend to be farmed as large units sub-divided by wire fences. Some of these fences follow the courses of old, low earth banks. On lower ground small irregular fields divided by earth banks are present. Hedges which top the banks are generally in poor condition, overgrown, rarely stock-proof and supplemented by wire. As a general rule, the closer to the farmhouse, the better the condition of the hedge. Dispersed dwellings, but of a closer grouping than that in area 47 to the south, characterise the settlement pattern of this area. Traditional buildings are stone built with slate roofs, though modern buildings of rendered concrete are present. While most of the farms are of some antiquity, it is possible that close grouping of dwellings is the result of 18th- and 19th-century squatter settlements. Stone quarrying has been carried out in this area, and along the southern boundary are the remains of lead mining activities associated with Frongoch mine in area 47.

Recorded archaeology in this area is not diverse, and consists of post-Medieval sites; houses and cottages and minor industrial remains.

This is not a particularly well defined Historic Landscape Area. Areas to the south and north (areas 47 and 53) are characterised by a more dispersed settlement pattern and larger field patterning. Area 47 also contains distinctive mining remains. To the east, poorer-quality, lower-lying ground contains a squatter settlement (area 128).

Ground photographs: 51, 52

Aerial Photographs: 54, 55, 56

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 55 RHEIDOL VALLEY WOODLAND

GRID REFERENCE: SN 744783

AREA IN HECTARES: 712.2

Historic Background

This area on the steep valley sides of the Rheidol represents the only block of ancient woodland in north Ceredigion. As with so many landscape areas of Ceredigion its early history has not been researched. By the 18th century almost all of the area had come into the possession of the Nanteos estate, and was divided amongst several farms, with some holdings in the Crosswood estate. The first large scale maps of the woodland are estate maps of 1819 (NLW Vol 45, 16-19, 22, 27-28, 30, 35). These show that the broadleaf woodland covered almost an identical area that of today. The tithe survey demonstrates that this did not change during the 19th century. Set close to or in the woodlands are lead mining remains. Mining is reputed to be of some antiquity in the valley (Prichard 1985, 6), although the main period of activity was the 19th century. Clearly the co-existence of large stands of woodland and lead mining - an industry that consumed large quantities of timber for a variety of purposes - indicates that the woodland was carefully managed. It must therefore have been under the control of the large estates and not of individual tenant farmers. Certainly Crosswood was carefully managing its woodlands from the early 18th-century (Edlin 1959, 19). This is a topic that further research would elucidate. In the 20th century, conifer plantations have filled in open areas on the valley sides. Most of the remains of the lead mining industry have been assigned to the valley floor of the Rheidol (area 132) and are described in that area, though shafts and spoil heaps lie in the woodland as does the Rheidol valley railway built to serve the mines in 1902. Temple, an important mine, lies wholly in this area. It was worked from 1876 to 1881.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area comprises the steep north and south valley sides of the Rheidol which rise from 50m on the valley floor to over 300m. The steepest slopes are those closest to Devil's Bridge. Though mostly ancient broadleaf woodland, there are plantations of conifers and a few pockets of open pasture and rough grazing. The latter comprises only a small proportion of the total. There are some boundary banks in the open areas, it is not known whether there are subdivisions within the woodland. Tips, shafts and levels of the lead mining industry lie within the woodland, but it is at Parson's Bridge at the extreme northern end of the area that the most substantial and various mining remains - the Temple mine - can be found. Here there are dressing floors, remains of buildings and a massive wheel-pit (Bick 1983, 27). The Vale of Rheidol Railway, open in 1902 to serve the mining industry, runs along the southern valley side and now functions as a tourist line, conveying people from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge.

Recorded archaeology of the area is almost entirely confined to remains of the metal mining industry. These are numerous and varied. Otherwise the only other major archaeological site is Tan-y-ffordd Iron Age hillfort.

This area of woodland is defined by farmland either on the floor of the Rheidol valley or on the surrounding hills.

Ground photographs: 53, 54, 55, 56, 124

Aerial Photographs: 48, 49, 50, 71, 80, 81, 82

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 88 RHOS RHYDD

GRID REFERENCE: SN 697753
AREA IN HECTARES: 281.3

Historic Background

The early history of this small block of upland pasture has not been researched, but by the 18th century it was divided between the Crosswood and Nanteos estates. Late 18th- and early 19th-century estate maps (NLW Crosswood Deeds No.5, Ser IV, Vol 1, 16; NLW Vol 45, 41 and 42; NLW Nanteos 348 and 349) show this area as unenclosed sheep-walk with isolated, minor enclosures on the fringes. By the tithe survey of 1847 (Llanfihangel-y-Creuddyn parish) the area had been sub-divided into a few very large enclosures, but aerial photographs of the 1940s record it as having reverted back to unenclosed sheep-walk.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This landscape area is located at the western end of a rounded ridge which achieves a maximum height of 310m. To the west, north and south the land falls away steeply down to c. 100m into the valleys of the Newidion and Magwr. Included in this area is the ridge crest and sides. There are no occupied settlements. Most of the land is now improved grazing, though pockets of rough pasture and patches of bracken are present on steep slopes. The area has been divided by wire fences. Some of these fences follow the lines of old, low earth banks - these can be equated with those recorded on the tithe map - though others are on new lines. Medium-sized conifer plantations have been established on steep south-facing slopes; these are interspersed with stands of old established hardwoods.

Recorded archaeology includes the major site of Castell Gareg-wen Iron Age hillfort, and a small earthwork enclosure of unknown date. Other sites are minor: a sheep-fold and cultivation ridges; the latter indicating arable farming across this area in the Medieval or post-Medieval period.

To the north, west and south this area is well defined by enclosed and settled valley land (areas 94, 123, 130). To the east definition is less obvious, and this area tends to merge with area 47.

Ground photographs: 95, 129

Aerial photographs: 67, 68

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 130 CWMNEWIDION

GRID REFERENCE: SN 710745
AREA IN HECTARES: 128.0

Historic Background

By the early 17th-century Cwmnewidion was a small independent estate owned by Hugh Vaughan (no relation to the Vaughans of nearby Crosswood), and comprised within this landscape character area Cwmnewidion Isaf and mill, Gilwern, and two Rhos-rhudd farms (Morgan 1997). As Morgan states (p23), the origins of wealth and status of the families of these small estates are lost. The Vaughans of Cwmnewidion were, however, sufficiently wealthy to have acquired ex-Strata Florida grange lands in Cwmystwyth. In the 1780s Cwmnewidion estate was purchased by the Crosswood estate (Morgan 1997, 196). Late 18th-century estate maps indicate that a similar field patterning to today's was then present (NLW Crosswood Deeds 5, Ser IV, Vol 1; 18 & 42). The map of Cwmnewidion shows enclosed land on the valley floor, heavily wooded valley sides with unenclosed land above. A similar pattern is shown on the Llanerchpentir map. From the mid 19th-century lead mining became an important element in the economy of the area. Several mines, Red Rock, West Frongoch, Wemyss and

Graiggoch worked the western limits of the Frongoch lode (Bick 1974, 16-17). Wemyss at the eastern end of Cwmnewidion worked from 1861 to 1899 and Craiggoch from 1841 to 1889, though here evidence of earlier workings was noted in 1840. A chapel was constructed here in the 19th century.

Description and essential landscape components

Cwmnewidion is a narrow, steep-sided valley. The floor of the valley rises from 100m at the western end to over 200m at the east. The valley sides rise to over 300m. The landscape area includes the valley bottom and the lower slopes of the valley sides, but not the higher slopes. A minor road, but nevertheless important local route-way, runs along the northern side of the valley floor linking the fertile lands of the lower Ystwyth valley with Pontrhydygroes and Cwmystwyth. The settlement pattern is of dispersed farmsteads located at the foot of the steep valley sides with enclosed land spread across the valley floor. Enclosures are small and irregular and are formed by low earth banks. Banks were formerly topped with hedges, but apart from in the extreme western part of the area these hedges have gone and are now replaced by wire. Improved grazing predominates on the valley floor, giving way to poorer quality land on the lower slopes. Land here is enclosed into larger divisions, but the earth bank boundaries are redundant and replaced by wire. There are stands of deciduous woodland and 20th century forestry at the western end of the area. Farmsteads are stone built with slate roofs.

Remains of lead mines are an important and distinctive element in this landscape area. These are concentrated towards the eastern end of the valley and comprise dominant spoil heaps and mine buildings. The buildings of local stone are roofless, but stand in some instances to their full height. Included in the buildings is a generating station of Frongoch mine supplied by a pipeline from a reservoir to the north in area 47.

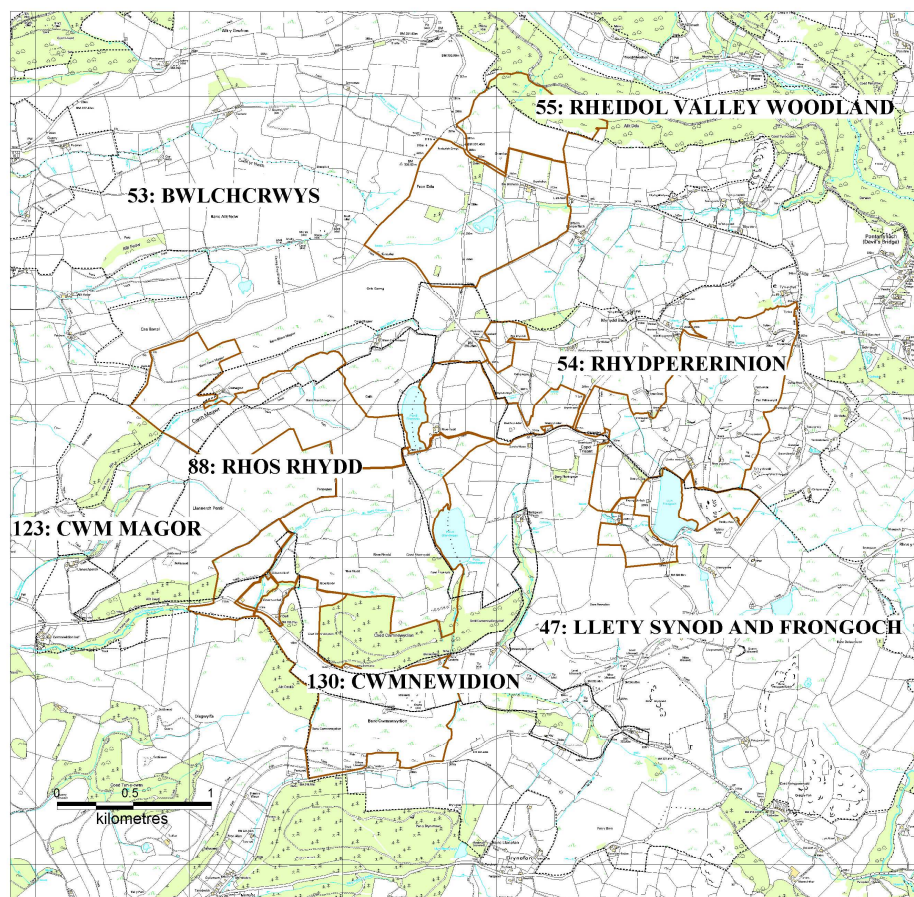
Other than metal mine remains, recorded archaeology consists of a mill site and a chapel.

The borders of this area are well-defined with steep valley sides to the north, west and east leading up to areas 47, 88 and 99. At the open western end of the valley this landscape area forms no clear boundary with the enclosed land of areas 51, 94 and 123.

Ground photographs: 95, 129, 130

Aerial photograph: 66

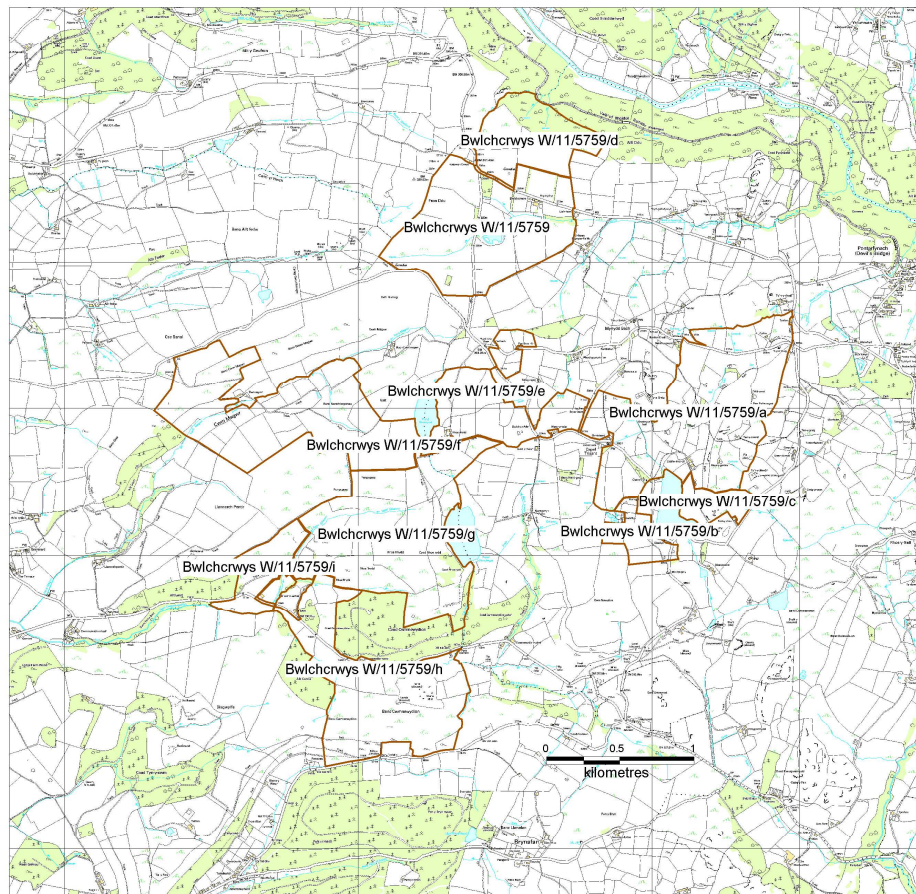
Bwlcherwys Historic Landscape Character Areas







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

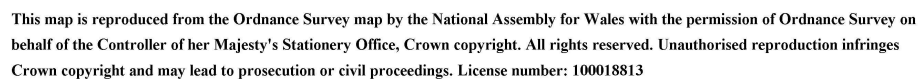
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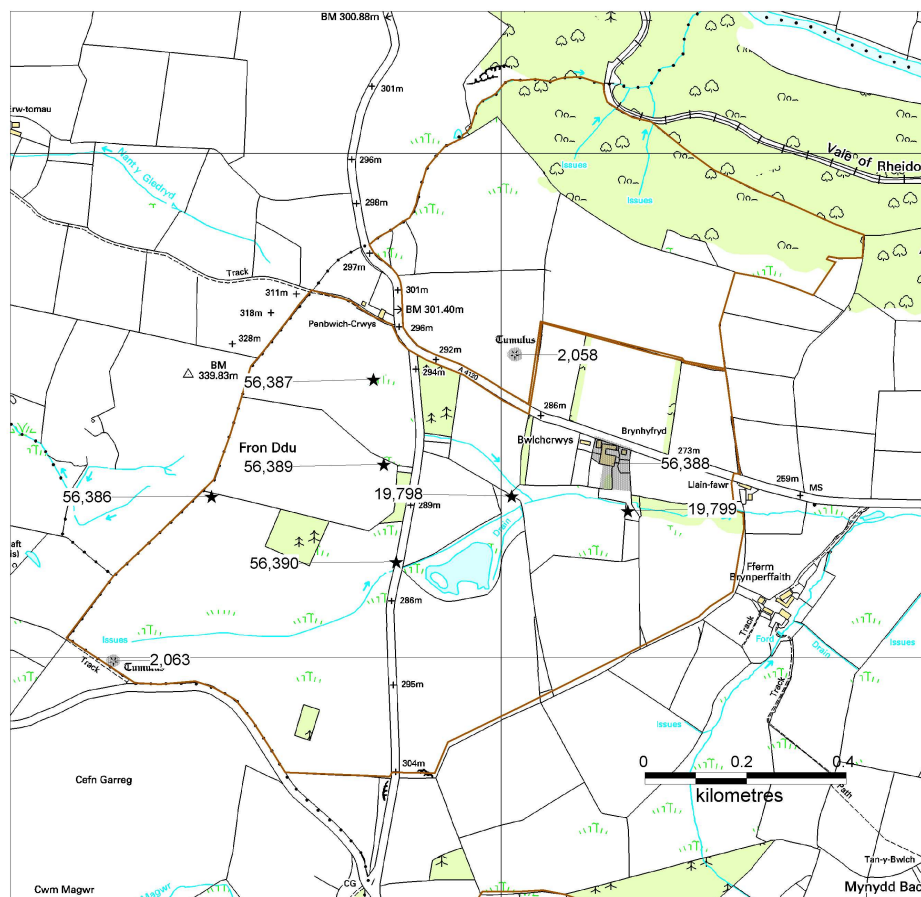


	Farm Boundary		Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)		Linear Archaeological Feature (by PRN)
	Historic Landscape Character Area		Archaeological Sites (by PRN)		

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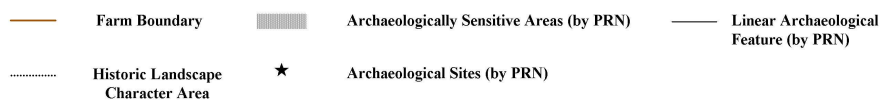
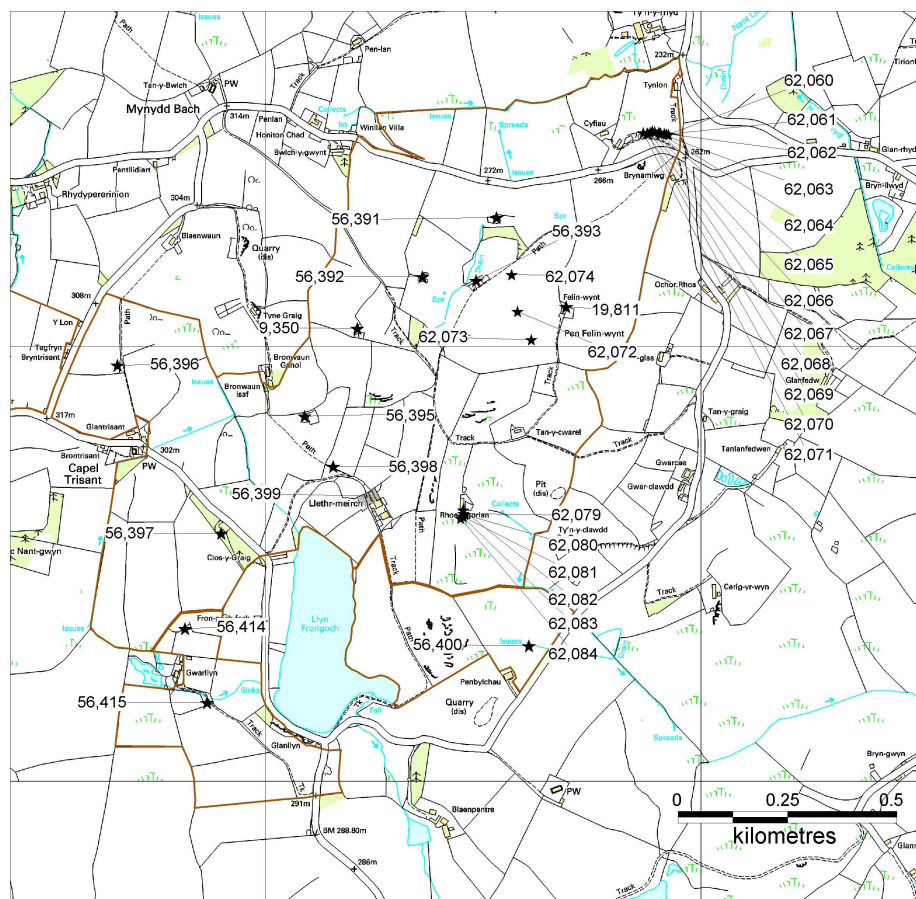
Bwlcherwys W115759, 5759d



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

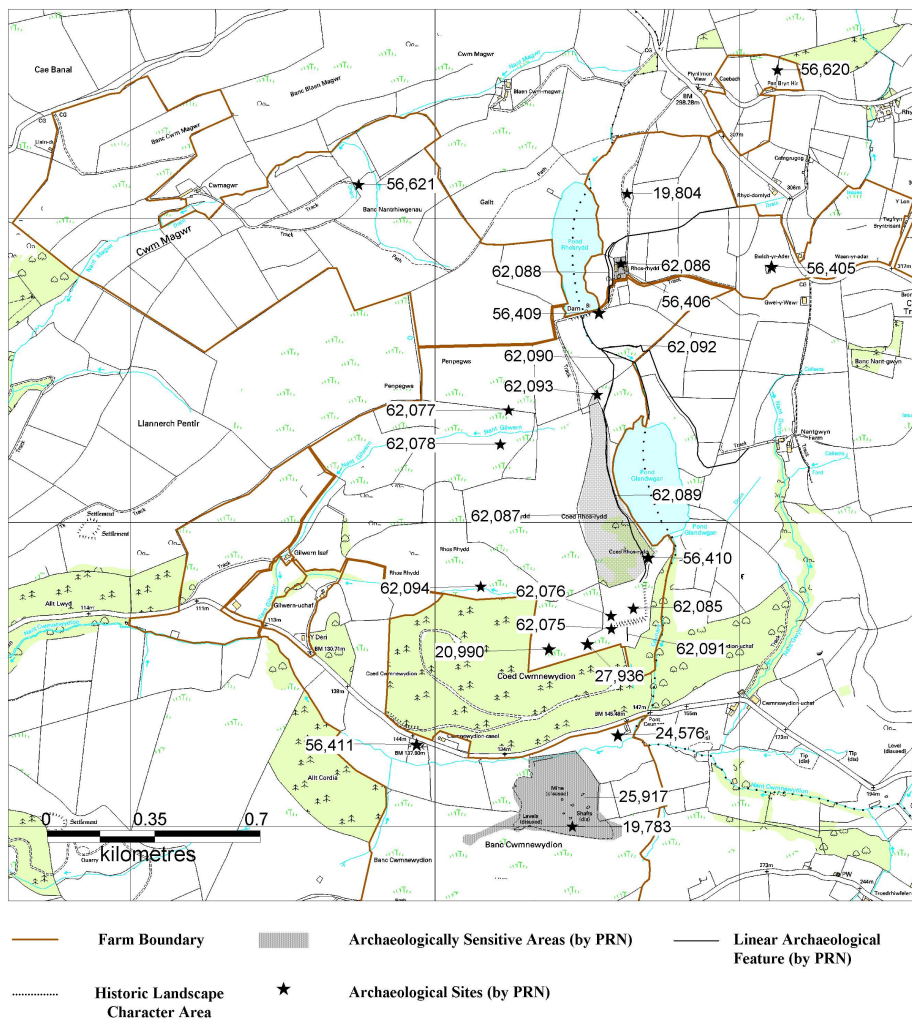
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Bwlcherwys W115759a, 5759b, 5759c



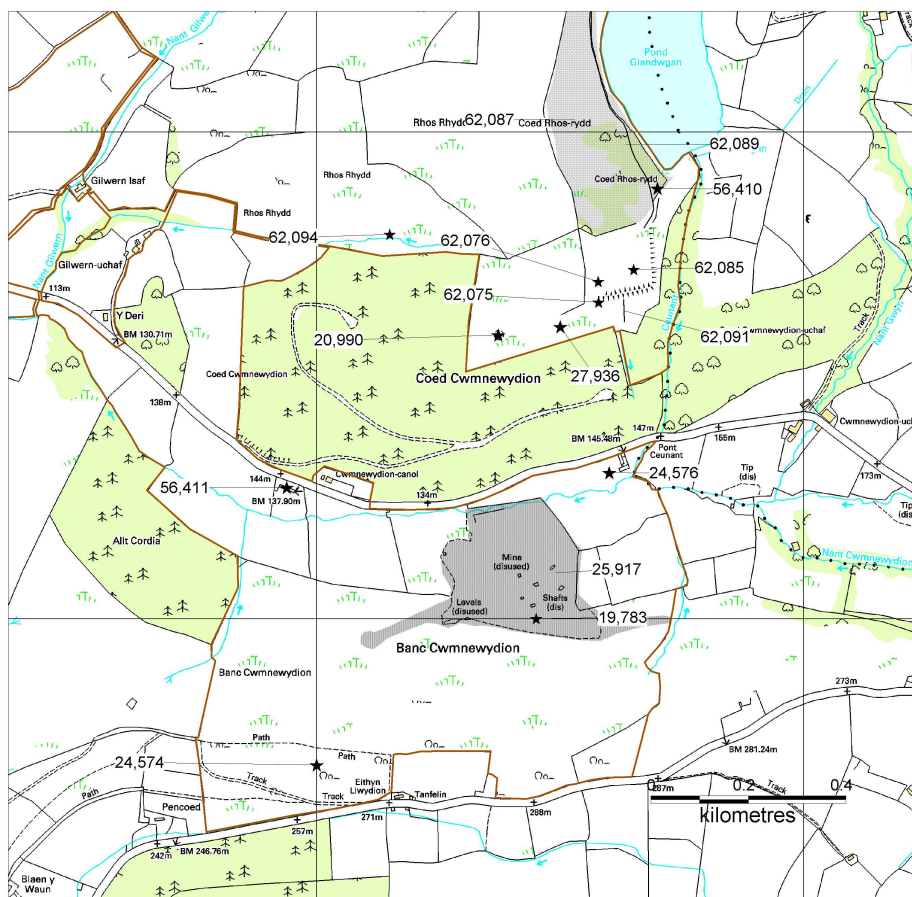
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Bwlcherwys W115759e, 5759f, 5759g, 5759h, 5759i



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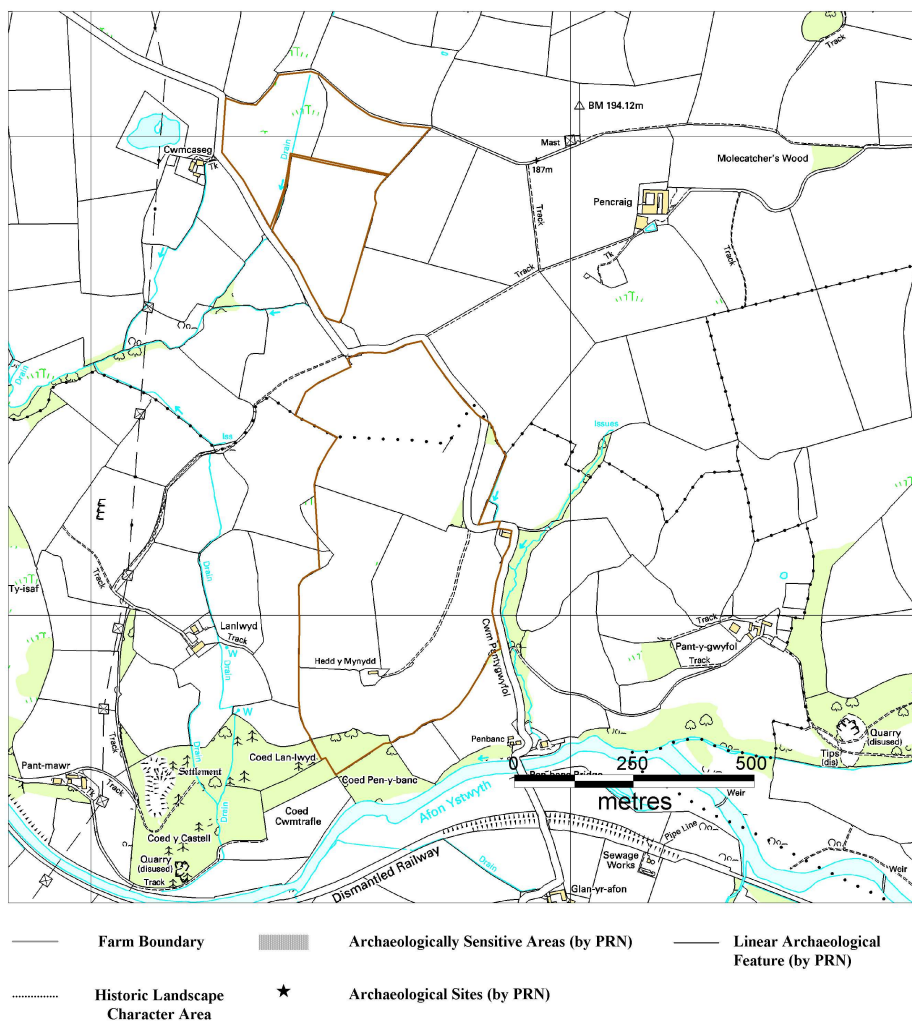
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| | Farm Boundary | | Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN) | | Linear Archaeological Feature (by PRN) |
| | Historic Landscape Character Area | | Archaeological Sites (by PRN) | | |

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Bwlcherwys W115759j, 5759k



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Bwlch Crwys
W/11/5759

Cambria report no. 2006-120
Project Record No. 55985

This report has been prepared by Will Steele
Position: Archaeologist (Tir Gofal)

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Louise Austin on
behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.
Position: Principal Archaeologist (Curatorial)

Signature Date.....

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any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this
report