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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)



**Prepared for:
Llwyniorwerth Uchaf**

**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/11/5775**

**ACA Report No. 2006/77
Project Record No. 55987**

Prepared by Will Steele

Other documents enclosed:

**Historic Landscape Character Areas 82 YSCUBORNEWYDD,
112 CAPEL BANGOR, 115 RHEIDOL VALLEY WOODLAND**

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Llwyniorwerth Uchaf comprises three separate land parcels in Ceredigion. The home farm holding (/5775; SN65008108) and holding /5775a lie within close proximity to Penllwyn in Melindwr community on opposite sides of Dyffryn Rheidol. Another holding (/5775) comprising solely of valley floor land lies approximately one and a half kilometres to the west at Lovesgrove in Faenor community.

The surrounding landscape encompasses the Afon Rheidol and lower valleys sides with rounded hilltops beyond. The processes leading to the creation of this landscape are not well documented, although it is thought that the present pattern of small irregular fields and dispersed farmsteads may have evolved from a sub-divided field system in the later Medieval period. It is clear that by the time of the first large-scale mapping of the area, the tithe maps of the early nineteenth century, the current settlement pattern of dispersed farms and small fields had been established.

The middle and upper reaches of the Rheidol are recognised as being an area of high landscape value and fall 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 82: Yscuborneydd, 112: Capel Bangor and 115: Rheidol Valley Woodland. Such areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape.



Archaeological and Historic Content

The farm contains a wide variety of archaeological sites spanning considerable time depth.

At the western end of a hilltop on the home farm holding (/5775) overlooking the confluence of the Afonydd Melindwr and Rheidol lie the remains of a small hillfort, defended by a single bank and ditch and now much reduced by ploughing (PRN 2021). Sites such as these are commonly assigned to the Iron Age (600BC to 43AD) and might have housed a small family group or community. They are commonly viewed as defensive structures although recent interpretations suggest that they were also built with an element of ostentation and display in mind. Excavated examples have revealed traces of settlement such as round houses, other post built structures and storage pits.

The Roman occupation of the area is represented by a fort (PRN 7719) in the southwestern corner of the farm, now scheduled as a nationally important monument (SAM Cd134). The fort, identified on aerial photographs, is situated within the main holding (/5775) on a ridge overlooking a point where the nearby Roman road crosses the Afon Rheidol. When excavated in the late 1970s little dating evidence was recovered although some pottery dating to the Flavio-Hadriatic period was found, confirming it to be a relatively early fort (c.70AD - c.125AD) (Sambrook & Hall 2003, 16) from around the same period as the forts at Pennal, Trawsgoed and Llanio. The line of the Roman road (PRN 5222) is still uncertain but it is thought to continue northwards, passing east of the fort, along the line of a modern unclassified road.

Nineteenth century maps (1888) record several farmstead and cottage sites on the three different holdings. Of these only the farmsteads of Llwyniorwerth Uchaf and Rhiwarthen-uchaf remain in use today, the many cottage sites having since been abandoned. It is local belief that these cottages were clom or mud built, in a tradition that was once widespread across southern Ceredigion and northern Carmarthenshire before the arrival of mass produced building materials.

Holding /5775b is significant that it is within the planned landscape of the Lovesgrove Estate. Its clumps and perimeter belts of specimen trees with individual veteran trees and traces of wrought iron railings are typical of the Victorian landscape park.

Detailed archaeological and historic content is described in the gazetteer below.

Key Objective

The management priority for the farm is the sensitive management of Penllwyn fort. Detailed management advice is provided below.

B2) HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

All known historic environment features are marked on Map 1 of this agreement

These are divided into three types:

- i) Archaeological and Historic Features: Archaeological sites, earthwork monuments, ruined structures and individual historic garden features.
- ii) Traditional Buildings: Structures built before 1918 using traditional materials and methods of construction.
- iii) Historic Parks and Gardens: Discrete areas of land laid out in an ornamental way for the pleasure of the owner.

All historic environment features have been allocated categories of importance:

Site Status A: Sites and Monuments of National Importance.

Site Status B: Sites/Features of Regional Importance.

Site Status C: Sites/Features of Local Importance.

Site Status D: Minor and damaged sites.

Site Status U: Sites requiring further investigation.

General requirements

Historic earthworks, stone structures, archaeological sites, traditional buildings, parks and gardens must all be retained and protected against damage. The management of these features must comply with the following general requirements.

- Do not remove any material from archaeological sites or historic features, or deposit spoil, farm waste or rubbish.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers on the farm are aware of the historic environment features and comply with the requirements of this agreement. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.
- Do not carry out any excavation, erect any new structure or plant any trees without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks on archaeological or historic sites without the prior approval of the Project Officer.
- Ensure that the use of metal detectors and the reporting of discoveries complies with the Treasure Act 1996 and associated codes of practice. The Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>) provides valuable guidance and information.
- Please report all discoveries of archaeological interest to Cambria Archaeology (01558 823131). This enables them to maintain an up-to-date record of archaeological discoveries.

"Scheduled" Ancient Monuments (SAMs) have statutory protection and consent from Cadw may be required for works to these monuments. Consult the Project Officer for advice.

"Listed Buildings" also have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority may be required for some works. This also applies to

buildings within the curtilage of a listed building. Consult the Project Officer for Advice

In addition to these general requirements you must comply with the specific sets of prescriptions set out below:

i) ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC FEATURES:

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

Location and description:

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by the Cambria Archaeology has identified the following sites and monuments which are indicated on Map 1.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be identified to the Project Officer who will pass the information to Cambria Archaeology.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
1	CAPEL BANGOR CAMP;CASTELL YR ABER (2021)	Iron Age hillfort	SN65808077	A		Specific
A very small Iron Age hillfort at the highest point of a steep sided ridge overlooking the junction of the Rheidol and Melindwr valleys to the south.						
Comprises of rectangular plan earthwork banks and ditches which form the defences together with a number of interior platforms or levelled areas, now substantially destroyed by years of ploughing. The condition of the site is such that it is not now easily recognisable as an archaeological site although the features can be traced.						
The hillfort lies within improved pasture land. Stable grass cover predominates although there is some broken ground from livestock erosion around a gateway at the western end of the site (<i>WWS June 2006</i>).						



Looking east along one of the hillfort ditches.

2 PEN LLWYN ([7719](#)) Roman fort SN65018060 A SAM Cd134 Specific

Pen Llwyn Roman fort is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (S.A.M.). The fort was first recognised on aerial photographs taken during the dry summer of 1976. Since then a number of small excavations have been undertaken by U.C.W. Aberystwyth.

Cropmarks plotted from aerial photographs show a classic rectangular plan with its rounded corners aligned at the cardinal points of the compass. The most obvious surface indications are in the south corner where the line of the rampart is followed by the hedge bank boundary of a field, which also marks the break of slope; the field on the exterior being over a metre lower at this point. Internally the ground is uneven with knolls of higher ground.

Excavations in the 1970s and 1980s revealed that the defences were of earth and timber with timber corner towers. Finds of black burnished ware pottery suggest an establishment date in the 70s AD at around the same time as the forts at Pennal, Trawsgoed and Llanio. The site straddles two pasture fields which have been used for arable (cereal and rootcrops) farming in the past. Grass leys are reseeded periodically (*WWS June 2006*).



Facing east from the interior of the Roman fort.

LLWYN IORWETH Post Medieval SN65088108 B Generic
UCHAF ([19349](#)) aqueduct

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888) shows an aqueduct crossing a stream valley at this location, part of leat (PRN 56904) serving water driven farm machinery at Llwyniorwerth Uchaf .

No traces of this feature remain. The site is an a pasture field (*WWS June 2006*).

GWAR CWM ([24378](#)) Post Medieval mill SN655809 B Generic

A dam and leat on the stream and an apparently associated rock-cut platform, may signify the site of a former corn mill, but no detail of such a mill is known.

The site of the mill is doubtful. Old Ordnance Survey maps (1888, 1906) record the leat continuing for 140m passed the alleged site of the mill building to Llwyniorwerth Uchaf where it fed water driven barn machinery. No clear platform to identify the site of a mill was identified (*WWS June 2006*).

[\(56142\)](#) **Post Medieval SN65758045 B Generic**
cottage?;outbuilding?

An unnamed building is recorded in the corner of a field on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1905). Appears too small to be a cottage, probably represents some form of agricultural building. Site destroyed. There are no visible traces of a building today (*WWS June 2006*).

[\(56421\)](#) **Post Medieval SN65167958 B Generic**
cottage

The outline of a cottage and enclosure are recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888) suggesting that it had been abandoned by that time. The site is now obscured by woodland vegetation. Only the low spread earth wall bases of the cottage survive (*WWS June 2006*).

[\(56422\)](#) **Post Medieval SN64827999 B Generic**
cottage

A building and enclosure is recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888) presumably representing the site of a cottage. There is no evidence today other than a few scattered stones (*WWS June 2006*).

[\(56425\)](#) **Post Medieval well SN61918106 B Generic**

Recorded on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1905). There is no evidence of any built structure. The given location is within a dried up water course. Associated with cottage (PRN 56425) (*WWS June 2006*).

[\(56426\)](#) **Post Medieval SN61928104 B Generic**
cottage

The site of a former cottage, recorded on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1905) but not on later sources. A well (PRN 56425) lies a short distance to the north. There are no visible traces of a cottage remaining. The site lies within a pasture field (*WWS June 2006*).

GWAR CWM [\(56427\)](#) **Post Medieval SN65438101 B Generic**
cottage

A roadside cottage and outbuilding recorded on the tithe map (1846) and named on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Originally a single storey cottage of stone, a second storey in brick was added in the Victorian period. Of the outbuilding no visible traces now remain (*WWS June 2006*).

GWAR CWM [\(56428\)](#) **Post Medieval SN65548096 B Generic**
pond

A holding pond comprising of an earthwork dam c.3m wide x 12m long constructed across a small stream. The pond is now dry, the dam wall having been breached. Marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888) (*WWS June 2006*).



The dam wall of the holding pond. Seen from the north.

[\(56429\)](#)

**Post Medieval
cottage**

SN65478094 B

Generic

A former cottage site recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1888) but later abandoned.

The site of the cottage is now evidenced by a level terrace (c. 12m NS by 5m EW) in sloping pasture. Garden enclosures are situated to the north and west. According to local tradition there were several other cottages in the vicinity, all of clom (earth) wall construction. No surface traces of these other cottages are visible (*WWS June 2006*).



Looking south towards the cottage terrace.

**LLWYN IORWETH
UCHAF [\(56904\)](#)**

Post Medieval leat SN65258103 B

Generic

A former leat serving water driven farm machinery at Llwyniorwerth Uchaf. Conveys water west from holding pond (PRN 56428) behind Gwar-cwm to the threshing barn at Llwyniorwerth Uchaf incorporating two aqueducts (PRNs 19349, 56905) along its course. The leat is recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1888).

The old leat is partly traceable in the fields today surviving best just below the holding pond. The leat takes the form of a cut with material heaped on the downlope side (*WWS June 2006*).

**LLWYN IORWETH
UCHAF [\(56905\)](#)**

**Post Medieval
aqueduct**

SN65048110 B

Generic

An aqueduct is shown straddling the road behind Llwyniorwerth Uchaf. Part of leat (PRN 56904) built to supply water driven machinery at the farmstead (*WWS June 2006*).

[\(56906\)](#)

Post Medieval road SN63148128 C

Generic

A redundant section of road which originally led north to Capel Dewi. Marked on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map of 1888. The line of the road is now visible as a raised linear earthwork approximately 5m wide in pasture. It skirts the edge of the parkland at Lovesgrove for approximately 80m (*WWS June 2006*).



Looking north along the line of the former road.

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 **CAPEL BANGOR CAMP; CASTELL YR** **SN65808077**
ABER ([2021](#))

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

The aim of management within the Tir Gofal agreement should be to prevent further damage to earthwork and below ground archaeological remains by:

- Encouraging and maintaining a permanent grass cover.
- Preventing disturbance to the ground surface.

Tir Gofal recommendations:

- No reseedling or ground breaking activities to be undertaken within the area of the hillfort or a ten metre buffer zone around the edge.
- Monitor livestock poaching or erosion around the gateway at the western end of the site. Do not use this gateway during wet conditions when the hillfort is more vulnerable.
- Do not place livestock feeders or mineral licks within the area of the hillfort.

Site 2 on MAP 1 **PEN LLWYN ([7719](#))** **SN65018060**

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

This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The following management recommendations are made in consultation with Cadw.

Although any earthwork traces of the fort in these two fields have since been planed flat there is still potential for the survival of intact below ground archaeological remains. The aim of management within the Tir Gofal agreement is to minimise damage to below ground remains by cultivation. The following management recommendations apply:

- The best practice option is to revert temporary leys in rotational cultivation to permanent grassland. Consider Tir Gofal reversion options.
- Where this is not possible lower impact management practices should be put in place. Arable and root crops should not be grown but reseedling could continue on a periodic basis.
- If ploughing has not been carried out within a five year period it will be necessary so seek Scheduled Monument Consent to continue to do so. Contact Cadw if this is the case.

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.

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
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RHIWARTHEN-UCHAF (56424)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN64867964	B		Generic
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A nineteenth century farmstead with Victorian gothic farmhouse, and farm outbuildings in a U-plan behind. The complex is formally planned and well built. Outbuildings are of stone and slate showing some expense in their construction and include a long stable cartshed, granary and pigeon loft rage, a cow shed and a possible smithy. They are little altered from their original appearance although slate has generally been replaced by modern corrugated asbestos and tin. Rhiwarthen-uchaf is no longer a working farmstead and some of the buildings are falling into disrepair (*WWS June 2006*).



General view of the farmyard at Rhiwarthen-uchaf. View from north.

LLWYNIORWERTH UCHAF (56141)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN65008108	B		Generic
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A working farmstead with a historic 19th century core on two levels: a U-plan yard and outbuildings and a detached farmhouse below. This layout is unchanged since at least 1888 when it is recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map.

The buildings on the farmyard include standing stone and slate outbuildings of the 19th century: lofted cow sheds opposite lofted stables with a substantial barn backing onto the slope to the rear. The barn is built in such a way that the threshing floor and granary/ storage bays are on the upper level with livestock accommodation below. A leat behind would have served water driven machinery. A much modernised nineteenth century stone built house lies below the yard.

Despite remodelling to the interior of the outbuildings the farmstead retains good historic character. The lofted cow shed is now derelict and falling into disrepair but buildings are otherwise in a reasonable condition (*WWS June 2006*).

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

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

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

Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

1. Those traditional buildings in a weatherproof and a structurally sound condition must be maintained in a weatherproof condition.
2. Those traditional buildings or parts of traditional buildings that have not been previously modified must be maintained using traditional materials and methods of construction.
3. Characteristics and features which reflect history and function of the traditional buildings identified in this agreement must not be removed.
4. Wherever practicable, repair original features rather than replace them. (Capital Works Option)
5. Repairs should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
6. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on the originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
7. Ensure the retention and sympathetic repair of historic coverings and finishes such as lime-wash, lime-render or weather-boarding. The appropriate traditional materials must be used. (Capital Works Option)
8. Do not disturb protected species (such as bats or barn owls) that use the building. If these species are present you will need a licence from CCW to carry out any work on the building.

iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

Location and Description:

A historic park or garden is a discrete area of land laid out in an ornamental way, originally for the pleasure and use of its owner. A sub-category of park is the deer park, laid out for management and containment of deer.

Historic parks of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.

The following parks and gardens have been identified:

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
3	LOVESGROVE (56423)	Post Medieval parkland	SN62698126	B		Specific

Area of planned landscape within the Lovesgrove Estate, as shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition maps of 1888, 1905. Victorian landscaped park set in open grassland comprising clumps and perimeter belts of specimen trees with individual veteran trees from grown out hedge boundaries in-between. Traces of wrought iron railings survive. The parkland is now used as permanent pasture grazing land (WWS June 2006).



Looking west across the parkland in front of Lovesgrove mansion.

Historic Environment Objectives:

The purpose of the management is to:

- Maintain or restore the historic configuration and visual character of the historic garden or parkland.
- Ensure the long-term preservation of features associated with the historic garden or parkland.

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

Generic Management prescriptions

1. Original features identified in the agreement must be retained and maintained. Repairs (including repairs to walling and fences) should be unobtrusive and make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
2. When repair is not possible, replacement features must be modelled on originals, using the same materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option)
3. Drives and historic tracks together with associated walling, revetment and bridges identified in the agreement must be maintained and, where necessary, restored using appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. (Capital Works Option).
4. New tracks should not be created.

Specific Management Requirements for individual Park and Garden features:

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

Site 3 on MAP 1

LOVESGROVE ([56423](#))

SN62698126

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

The management aim within Tir Gofal is to protect and retain the parkland elements. The following management recommendations apply:

- Ensure the future survival of the parkland character by a considered planting plan based on the layout shown on historic maps (OS 1888, 1905).
- As a general rule replacement planting should be undertaken on a like for like basis, matching the profile of existing species

Due to the variety of specimen trees it is recommended that advice should be sought from a specialist from the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust before finalising the planting plan. Contact details are provided.

- A map of the proposed new planting should be provided to Cambria Archaeology.
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WS - 27/06/2006 (12:35:49) - HTML file produced for Tir Gofal HE2 report, Cambria Archaeology
Project record number 55987.

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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
Cadw/ ICOMOS 1998 Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.
Published by Cadw

Murphy, K. 1999 Upland Ceredigion Historic Landscape Characterisation. ACA Reports

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.12, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.12, 25"

Hall, J & Sambrook, P 2003 Melindwr Community Audit. Unpublished report by Cambria

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.11, 25"

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Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.12, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.12, 25"

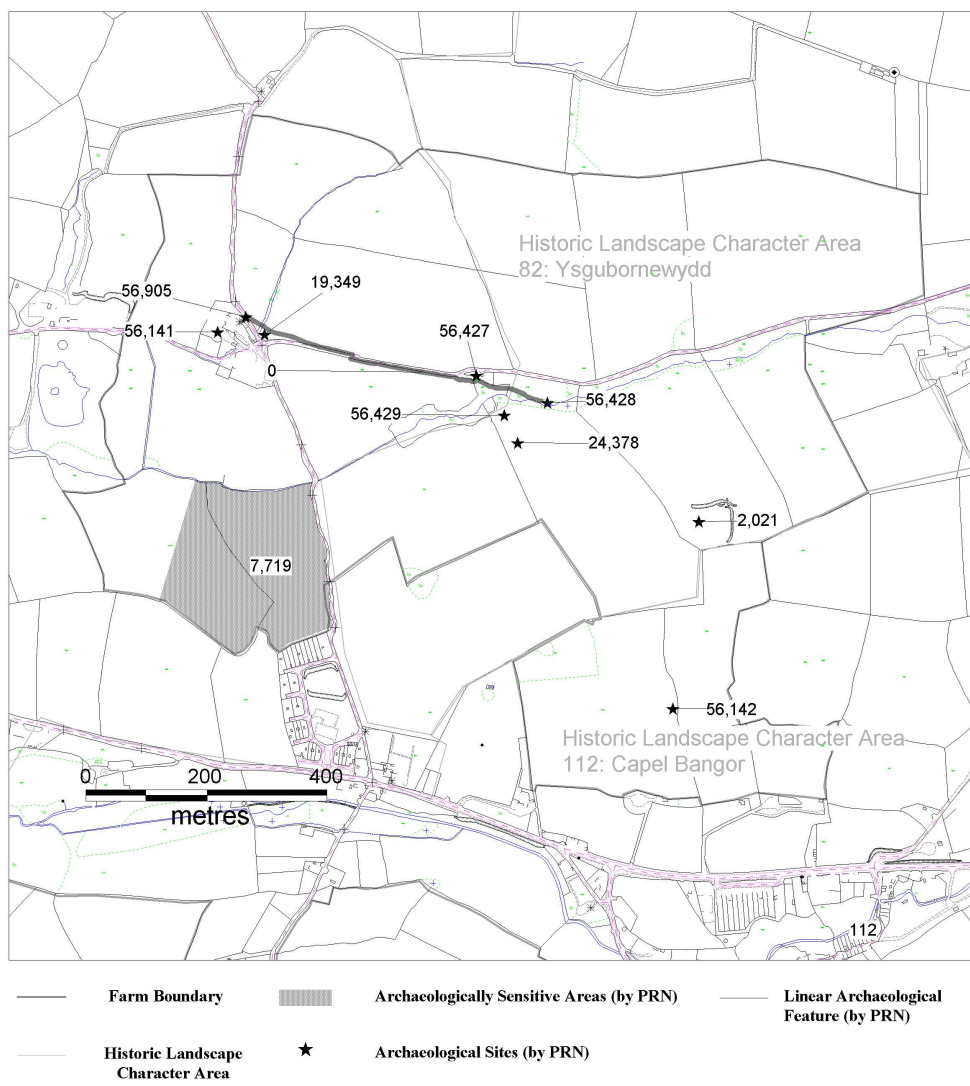
Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.15, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.15, 25"

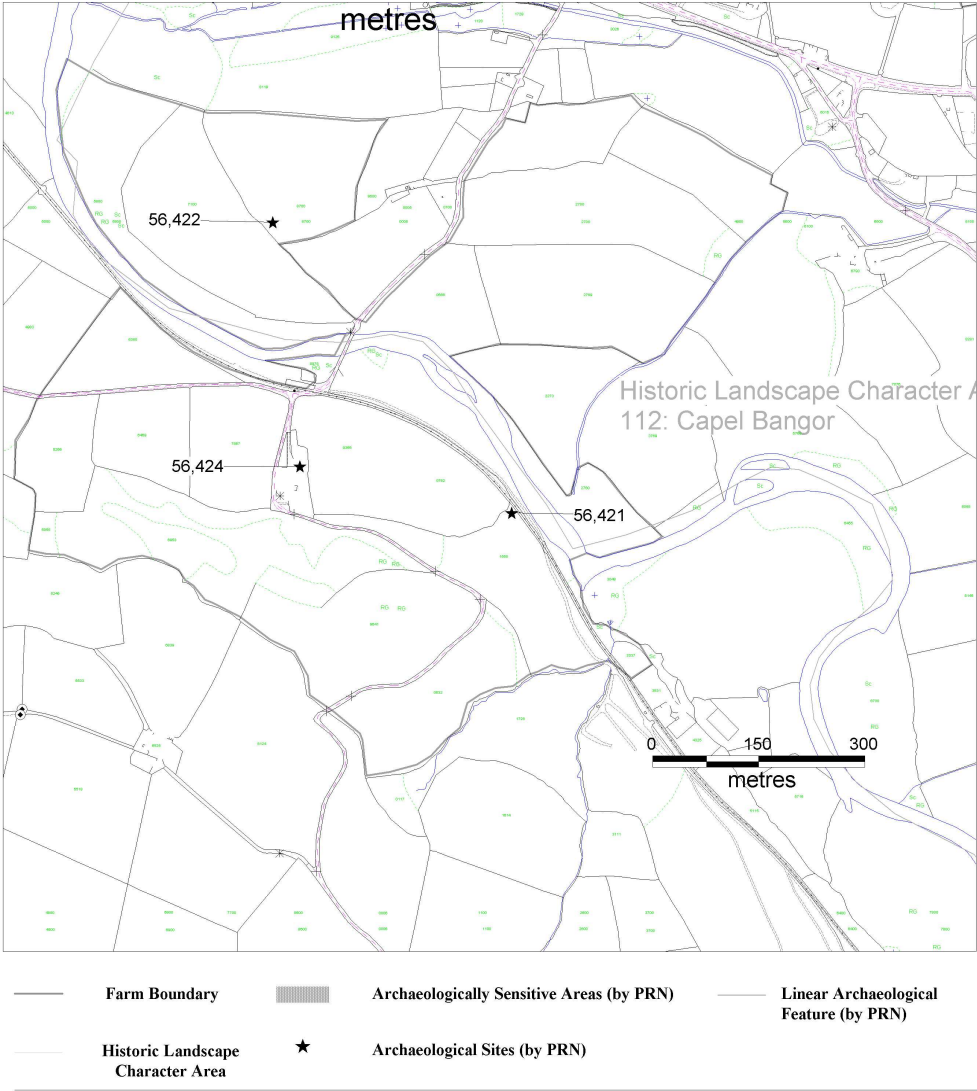
Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1888 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.16, 25"

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1905 Cardiganshire Sheet 06.16, 25"

Tithe Map & Apportionment 1845 Llanbadarn Fawr parish

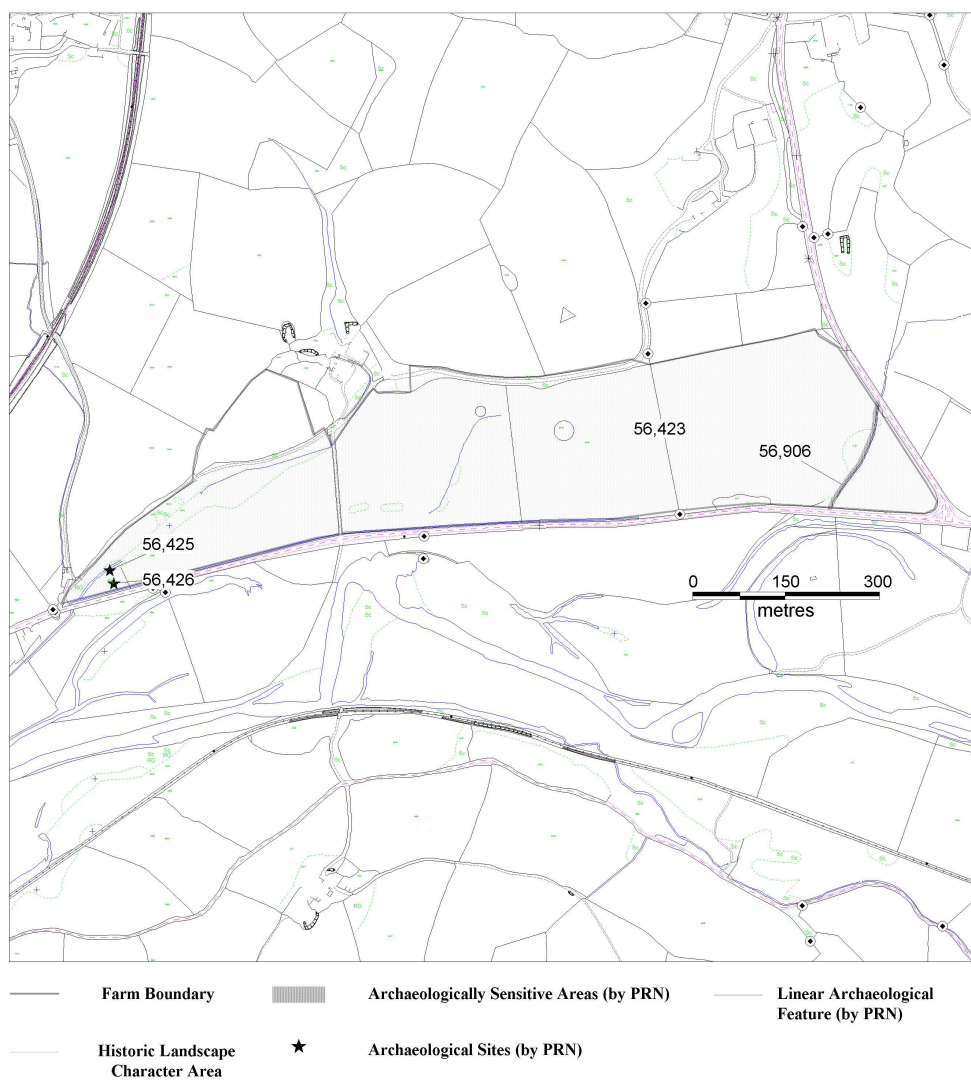


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Llwyniorwerth Uchaf W/11/5775b



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UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: **82 YSGUBORNEWYDD**

GRID REFERENCE: SN 667814

AREA IN HECTARES: 234.4

Historic Background

The history of this area has not been researched. There are no surviving estate maps to provide an indication of landscape evolution. The earliest survey - the tithe maps of the 1840s - show a landscape similar to that of today: medium- to large-sized fairly regular-shaped fields. It is assumed that this field pattern developed in the 18th century, and that prior to this the area comprised unenclosed sheep-walk or moorland. If this is correct, then the land is likely to have been claimed by the Crown, and was perhaps enclosed illegally by individual farmers or estates. There are no inhabited settlements. The landscape has not changed substantially over the past 150 years.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area consists of rounded, undulating ridges and hills lying at between 150m and 210m. Improved grazing dominates, though there are hollows of rougher, rushy ground, and some small conifer plantations have been established. There are no inhabited settlements. The whole area has been divided into a field system of medium- to large-sized fairly regular-shaped enclosures. Boundaries to the fields comprise earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in fair to poor condition. Some have gone entirely and others are overgrown and derelict. Wire fences supplement all bank and hedge boundaries.

There is little recorded archaeology in this area, however what there is does provide a time-depth element to the landscape. An Iron Age fort - Capel Bangor Camp is a major site. There is also a Bronze Age round barrow and a post-Medieval mill site.

This area is defined to the north and south by lower-lying settled and more anciently enclosed land (areas 102, 112). To the east is higher, formerly unenclosed land (area 61), and to the southeast woodland (area 66).

Aerial Photographs: 72, 74, 76

UPLAND CEREDIGION

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 112 CAPEL BANGOR

GRID REFERENCE: SN 660800

AREA IN HECTARES: 330.8

Historic Background

The history of this area has not been researched. The place-name 'Bangor' is presumed to refer to a pre Anglo-Norman ecclesiastical establishment. There is no other evidence to support this. The maes element of Maes Bangor may indicate the former presence of an open- or sub-divided field system, though there is no other documentary evidence for this. However, the present pattern of small irregular fields and dispersed farmsteads may have evolved from such a system in the later Medieval Period or early modern period. It is clear that by the time of the first large-scale mapping of the area, the tithe map of 1845 (Llanbadarnfawr parish), the current settlement pattern of dispersed farms and small fields had been established. Superimposed onto this agricultural landscape is that of rural industry and crafts. Capel Bangor village in 1845 consisted of five or six dwellings at 'Pandy', presumably indicating a fulling mill, and a smithy, with a 'Factory' located upstream. A chapel was constructed here in 1790 (Percival 1998, 517), and later a church and another chapel. The village continued to develop throughout the second half of the 19th century and the 20th century. A by-pass has been constructed to avoid the core of the old village.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This area encompasses a terrace of the Afon Rheidol at about 30m-50m OD and the lower valley sides up to about 170m. Agricultural land is almost entirely composed of improved pasture, with hardly any rougher ground and no arable. The underlying settlement pattern is of dispersed farms. These are generally stone-built with slate roofs, and have steel-frame and other modern farm buildings associated with them. Included in the area is the early 19th-century listed mansion of Glan Rheidol and its historic garden (Welsh Historic Gardens Database). Superimposed over this pattern is the 19th- and 20th-century village of Capel Bangor. This consists of a core of 19th century stone-built terraced cottages, interspersed with which are more substantial 19th century houses and 20th century development of brick and concrete. A church, chapel and school are present. The core has now been by-passed. Petrol stations and other services have developed alongside the new road and a small caravan park lies close to the village centre. Field patterning comprises small irregular enclosures. Boundaries of these fields are of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are generally well maintained on the river terrace with only a small percentage neglected. On higher ground they are less well managed and a larger proportion are becoming derelict. Wire fences supplement most hedges. Deciduous woodland and individual trees of park-land close to Glan Rheidol lend a wooded appearance to this part of the area. Remains of small metal mines lie close to the northern boundary.

Recorded archaeology of this area consists mainly of post-Medieval domestic and industrial buildings and the remains described above. Bronze Age finds are the only indication of pre Dark Age occupation in this area.

This is a particularly difficult area to define as many of the neighbouring areas contain similar historic landscape characteristics. To the east areas 56 and 68 are different, though an exact boundary cannot be drawn. Higher ground (areas 68, 69, 82) of larger enclosures and less settled land provides better boundary definition, but again no exact boundary can be drawn. The historic landscape area to the west has yet to be described.

Ground photograph: 111

Aerial photographs: 73, 75