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## **BETTER WOODLANDS FOR WALES MANAGEMENT PLAN HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (WHE1)**

**Prepared for: Ynys Hir**

**BWW Reference No  
15158**

**Prepared by  
Will Steele  
Project Record No. 63260**

### **Archaeological Visit Recommended**

**Ynys Hir contains a wide variety of archaeological remains incorporating a medieval motte, evidence of 19th century copper and lead mining and estate landscaping from the 17th to 19th centuries. In order to help with the assessment of management priorities, and enhance understanding the varied archaeological remains present, an archaeological visit is recommended.**

# INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

## **Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content**

This application comprises numerous separate woodland parcels lying within the community of Ysgubor-y-coed, Cerdigion, just south of the Dyfi Estuary at the county borders with Gwynedd and Powys. The woodlands are centred on the mansion of Plas Ynys Hir. The landscape here is characterised by steep hills and narrow woodland outcrops situated along the naturally outcropping bedrock which follows the natural striations of the land. The area immediately to the east forms part of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Ynys Hir reserve which is recognised as being of both international and national importance.

Ynys Hir has been a house of substance since at least the 17th century when it was home to one David Lloyd and then his son John. Of the early landscaping little now remains, although there seems to have been some formal planting of oaks, aligned with views of the house. The remains of these today comprise an avenue running north to the west of the mansion and another double row running east west across low land to the east of Cae'r berllan. In the 1850s and 1860s the woodland north of the house became a pleasure ground, laced with a network of footpaths margined with boulders of white quartzite. Later improvements in the 1880s saw a stepway rising west of the house which ultimately led to a timber summerhouse. A pheasantry is recorded in the wood to the north of the house. Specimen trees within the woodland north of the house include oak, beech, sweet chestnut, English yew, box, cherry and laurel, Rhododendron and butchers broom (after Palmer, David & Laidlaw 2004).

Additional areas of woodland to the west occupy the valley floor within an area that was reclaimed from salt marsh, probably in the early post-medieval period. The extensive woodlands to the east and north of Ynys Hir include a mixture of long established deciduous woodland and commercial forestry plantations on the south side of the Llyfnant Valley. The landscape topography of this area is again, extremely undulating due to the nature of the underlying geology.

The recorded archaeological content of the woodlands includes evidence of copper mining (PRNs 25800) and a lead level (PRN 63256). Tomen Las (PRN 4031; SAM CD100), a scheduled medieval motte overlooks a spur of high ground above the Dyfi, approximately one kilometre north of Ynys Hir.

## **Historic Environment Objectives**

The purpose of the management is to

- Ensure the survival of visible historic features.
- Ensure archaeological deposits beneath the ground surface are not disturbed.
- Prevent progressive degradation of historic environment features by promoting sympathetic woodland management.
- Ensure the long-term preservation of features associated with historic woodland.
- Maintain or restore the historic configuration and visual character of the historic landscape.

## **GENERAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**All historic earthworks, structures, archaeological sites and traditional buildings must be retained and protected against damage. The following list identifies those Historic Environment Features affected by this application and the accompanying mapping shows each of these and identifies a sensitive area surrounding it. These sensitive areas must be actively managed for the life of the woodland management plan in accordance with the following requirements, in line with the Forestry Commission's *Forestry & Archaeology Guidelines, 1995*.**

### **Planning**

- Ensure that new planting and re-planting schemes are planned to avoid the sensitive areas surrounding historic environment features. Ideally these sensitive areas should not simply be left as unplanted islands in otherwise continuous woodland. Wherever possible these sensitive areas should be incorporated into larger buffer zones or clearings to facilitate access and ongoing management. Specific planting schemes involving historic environment features should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology at the planning stage.
- In areas of grazed woodland, grazing regimes and stocking levels should be approved by Cambria Archaeology prior to implementation. Similar approval should also be sought prior to significant changes to agricultural regimes.
- Consideration should be given to lessening the visual impact of new planting on historic environment features and historic landscapes.
- Consideration should be given to allowing / maintaining public access to historic environment features in woodland where this is both safe and practical. Specific access and interpretation schemes involving historic environment features should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology at the planning stage.
- Ensure contractors and all other workers are aware of the historic environment features and comply with these requirements. They should take appropriate measures to avoid accidental damage.

## **Mitigation**

- Do not plant or re-plant trees within the defined sensitive areas surrounding historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not carry out any excavation or erect any new building or structure in the vicinity of historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks within the sensitive areas of historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not remove any material from the sensitive areas of historic environment features or deposit spoil or rubbish on them.
- Do not store timber or machinery within the sensitive areas of historic environment features.
- Do not use heavy machinery in the sensitive areas of historic environment features, especially in wet weather.
- Do not harvest or otherwise fell trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features without prior discussion with Cambria Archaeology.
- No intrusive archaeological investigation (such as excavation, field-walking to collect surface finds or metal detecting) should be allowed without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology, to ensure that such work complies with appropriate guidance - the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance*, and the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales, 2006*.

## **Proactive management**

- Control scrub and naturally regenerating trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features. Such vegetation should be cut off at ground level with its roots being left in the ground rather than pulled up or dug out. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance.
- Remove any dead or unstable trees from the vicinity of historic environment features, leaving roots to rot in situ. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance.
- Where appropriate, undertake regular brashing of trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features.
- Remove brash or other dead vegetation from the sensitive areas of historic environment features with care. Ensure that machinery does not cause further disturbance.
- Wherever practicable, repair and reuse original historic environment features, such as boundary walls, rather than replace them. Repairs should be unobtrusive and where possible make use of appropriate traditional materials and methods of construction. Schemes of repair should be discussed with Cambria Archaeology prior to implementation.

## **Legislation and Guidance**

- **Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)** have statutory protection and consent from Cadw will be required for works to these monuments.

- **Listed buildings** have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority will be required for some works. Listed status may also apply to buildings and structures within the curtilage of a listed building.
- Areas of **historic parkland** 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.
- A number of **historic landscapes** are registered in the Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW *Registers of Outstanding and Special Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.
- The reporting of **archaeological finds** arising from woodland work must comply with the *Treasure Act, 1996*. Guidance on this and on the reporting of other **portable antiquities** can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>).

*Scheduled and listed sites and registered areas are identified as such below.*

## HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

A search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) held by Cambria Archaeology has identified the following historic environment features. These are listed and described below and are shown on the accompanying map. Each feature is allocated a unique reference number (a Primary Record Number - PRN) that should be quoted in any correspondence.

**Each site listed must be managed in accordance with the General Management Requirements outlined above. Where sites require specific management this is set out below. These Specific Management Requirements are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the General Management Requirements.**

PRN 4031    TOMEN LAS    Medieval motte    SN68729687

***Scheduled Ancient Monument.*** Tree covered motte on the end of a spur of higher ground extending into the Dyfi. The motte is surrounded on three sides by a rock-cut ditch and on its fourth side by marsh. A possible bailey lies to its north, outside the area of scheduling. Recent visits to the site by the Cadw Field Monument Warden described it as being quite bracken covered with a few ageing and fallen trees within the area.

*The following Specific Management is required.*

**This site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Contact Cadw for management advice.**

PRN 25800	YNYS-HIR	Post Medieval copper mine	SN679956
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"Old shafts" are identified here on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Not easily identified when visited as part of the Cambrian Mountains Metal Mines Project in 1988.

PRN 63261 CAE'R BERLLAN Post Medieval well SN68289632

A well is identified at this location on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Present condition unknown. It is not shown on the recent Ordnance Survey mapping.

PRN 63262 Post Medieval pheasantry SN68229621

Identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition (1888). Present condition unknown.

PRN 63263	PLAS-YNYS-HIR	Post Medieval summer house	SN67979579
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The Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition map (1888) identified a summer house at this location. Present condition unknown.

**PRN 63264 EINON COTTAGES**

**Post Medieval well**

**SN68689527**

A well is recorded at this location on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1905). Present condition unknown. It is no longer shown on the recent Ordnance Survey mapping.

**PRN 63265**

**Post Medieval building?; SN71469709  
sheepfold?**

A rectangular feature, measuring approximately 11m by 6m is marked in outline on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). Its status is uncertain. Possible explanations could include a disused building or a sheep fold.

**PRN 63266**

**Post Medieval level**

**SN71599723**

An "old level", shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1888). It is no longer marked on the recent Ordnance Survey mapping.

***Sources consulted:***

**Maps**

Ordnance Survey 1st edition map 1888 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.02, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1st edition map 1888 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.05, 25"

Ordnance Survey 1st edition map 1905 Pembrokeshire Sheet 02.09, 25"

**Other Sources**

Burt, R., Waite, P. & Burnley, R. The Mines of Cardiganshire. The Department of Economic History University of Exeter in association with The Northern Mine Research Society.

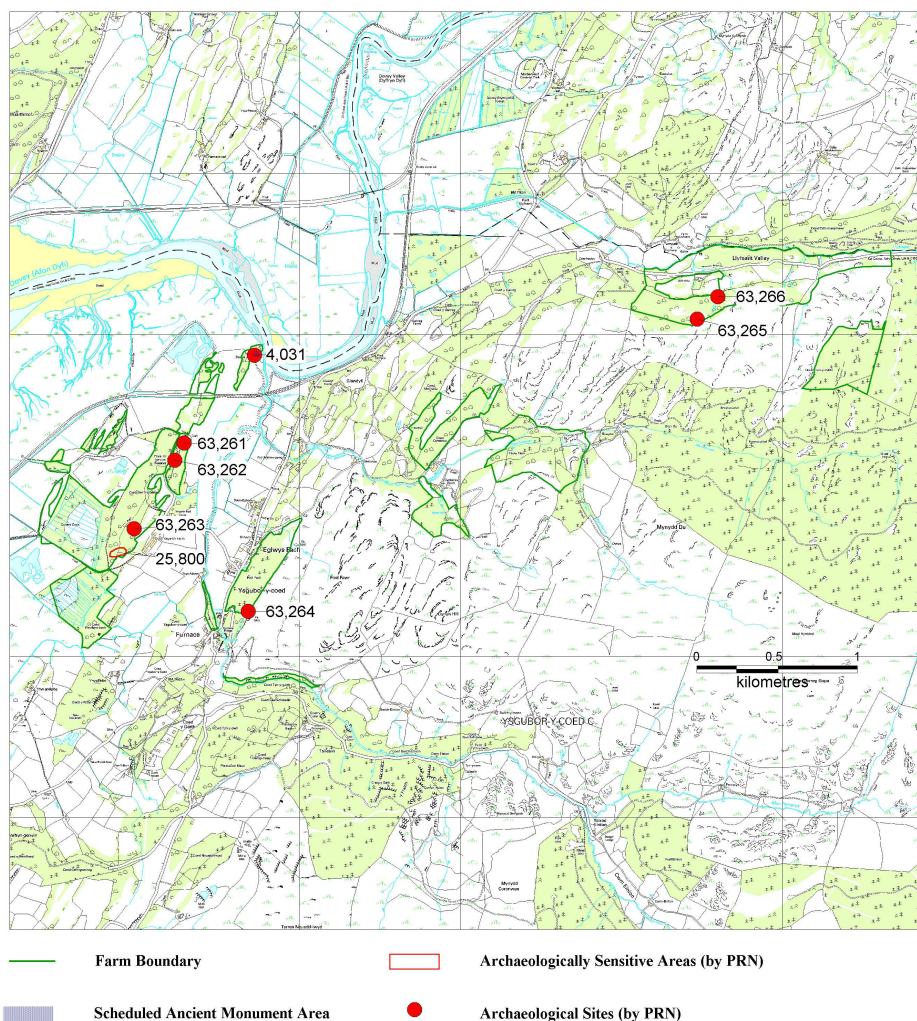
Palmer, C., David, P. & Laidlaw, R. 2004 Historic Parks and Gardens in Ceredigion. WHGT Ceredigion

Page, N. & Scott, S. 1998 Coastal Survey 1997-8 The Dyfi Estuary Ceredigion. Unpublished report by Cambria Archaeology for Cadw.

Other sites may be known to the landowner and these should be made known to Cambria Archaeology in order to update the Regional Historic Environment Record and where necessary amend management advice.

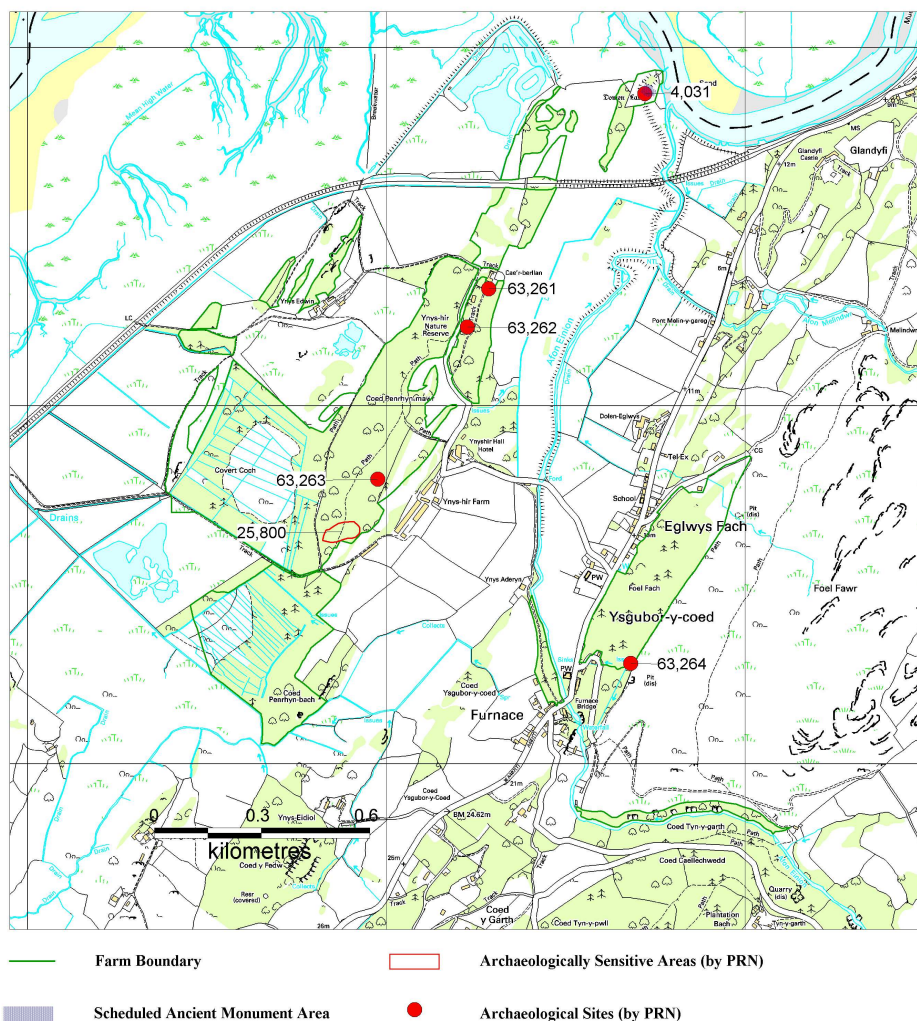
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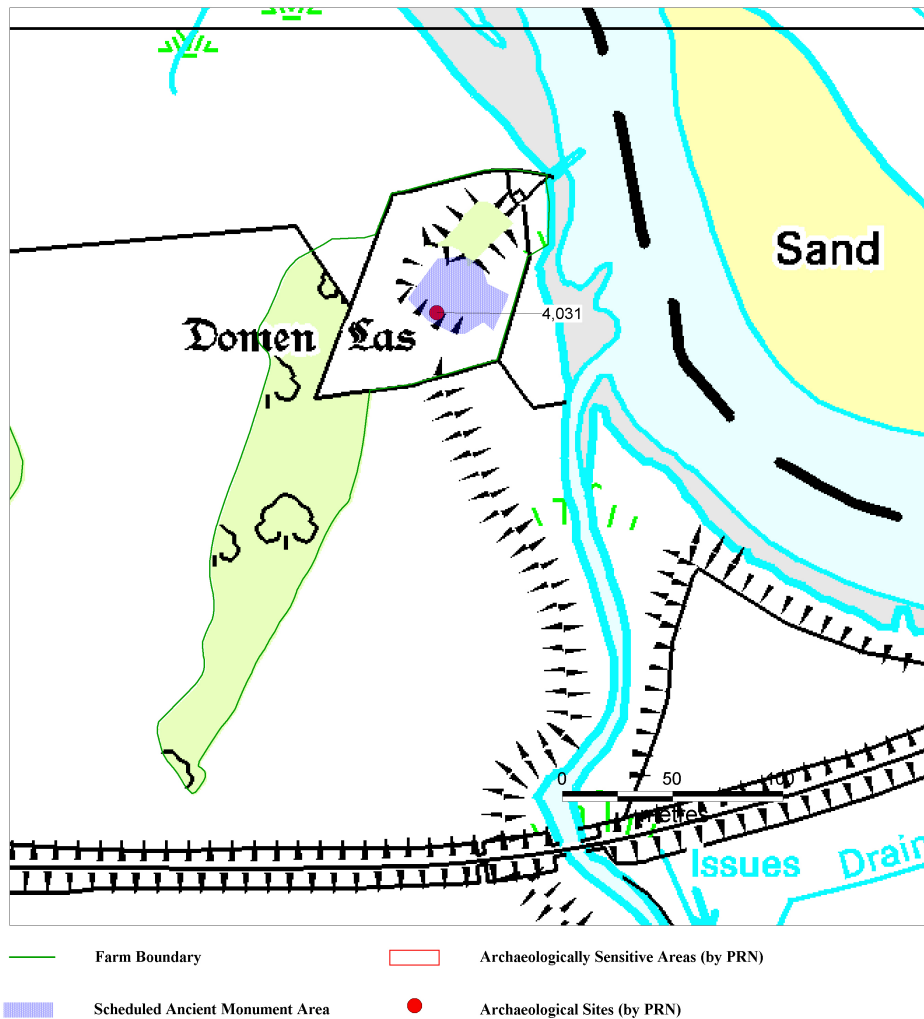
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