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TIR GOFAL MANAGEMENT PLAN: HERITAGE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION (HE2)

**Prepared for:
Nantarast**



**Tir Gofal Reference No
W/12/6268**

**DAT Report No. 2009-10
Project Record No. 63665**

**Prepared by
Mike Ings**

Other documents enclosed:

Historic Landscape Character Area descriptions: nos 216 Rhandirmwyn and 217 Cwm-y-rhaeadr

A) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

2. Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Historic Landscape Character

Nantarast Farm comprises four land holdings, labelled for the purposes of this report 'A' - 'D', within Carmarthenshire.

Holding 'A' is centred on NGR SN61593542 in the community of Llansawel, located to the west and south of the Llansawel village. It lies within a landscape of medium-large, generally regular fields that was probably enclosed in the late 18th- early 19th century and it has changed little since it was recorded on the 1887 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Holding 'B', centred on NGR SN71834966 in the community of Cynwyl Gaeo, is mainly unenclosed heathland with some regular enclosure into small fields at the southern end of the holding around the Nantarast farmstead.

Holding 'C' is centred on NGR SN77724350 on the border between the communities of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, in the northeast, and Cilycwm. It also lies within Cadw Registered Area 7: Tywi Valley, classified as of 'Outstanding' historic interest (Cadw ICOMOS, 1998) and within Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 216: Rhandirmwyn. These areas are intended to define places where local land-use patterns have left particularly strong or distinctive evidence in the landscape (Murphy & Ludlow, 2000). HLCA 216 lies in the upper Tywi Valley and dispersed farms and 19th century lead mining communities are the dominant settlement types. The present system of small-medium irregular fields is likely to have been established by the early-mid 17th century.

Holding 'D', centred on NGR SN77154349 in the community of Cilycwm, also lies within Cadw Registered Area 7: Tywi Valley and in HLCA 217: Cwm-y-rhaeadr, which consists of very steep valley sides mainly under conifer plantations. The area has been depicted as open pasture on the earliest historic maps and it is still largely unenclosed, what enclosure and settlement there is relating to 18th and early 19th century encroachment into former open land.

A full description of the relevant HLCAs are provided at the end of this report.

Archaeological and Historic Content

The most notable recorded archaeology is located within holding 'B', where there are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments; Carn Nantarast (PRN 4100, SAM CM364), a Round Barrow - a circular mound of earth or stone placed over a burial - probably dating to the Bronze Age (c.2300-800 BC), and Esgair Gaeo (PRN 36015, SAM CM298), a post-medieval Deserted Rural Settlement that incorporates a long hut site (PRN 36016), two enclosures (PRNs 36017 and 36018) and a sheepfold (PRN 36019). These sites represent a period, perhaps 18th-19th century, when agriculture was being practised more intensively on the uplands than is now seen. To the east of

the deserted rural settlement, near to the line of the old drovers' road, is a substantial linear earthwork (PRN 94610) that could possibly represent a post-medieval artificially created rabbit warren, termed a pillow-mound.

Also within the farm boundaries are the now abandoned and ruined cottage Gwern-hirion (PRN 21840) and farmstead Hafod-y-garreg (PRN 7874). A drystone walled sheepfold (PRN 94609) is located by a nearby stream and was used for corralling the sheep prior to washing their fleeces for shearing. The traditional buildings of the working farmstead Nantarast (PRN 64773) have now been replaced with modern constructions while the farm buildings of the Pwll-Priddog farmstead within holding 'C' have been converted to private dwellings.

There are also two possible sites of Iron Age settlement, at Dinas Bach (PRN 5543) in holding 'C' and Dinas Fawr (PRN 4125) in holding 'D'. The name 'Dinas' refers to a 'hill-fortress' and their locations above a river valley are ideal sites, although no conclusive earthworks have been recorded during recent field surveys (F.Murphy, 2008).

A full gazetteer of the recorded archaeology within the farm boundaries appears below.

Key Objective

The management priority for this farm is the preservation and maintenance of the two sites of nationally important archaeology, SAMS CM298 and 364.

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 the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (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 Dyfed Archaeological Trust has identified the following sites and monuments that 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 the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

	Name (& PRN)	Period/Site type	NGR	Status	SAM/listing	Management required
1	CARN NANT-YR-AST (4100)	Bronze Age round barrow	SN72104946	A	SAM CM36	Specific

Carn Nantarast has "every appearance of a collection of stones erected for trigonometrical purposes", but the name suggests it is ancient and it is published on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1", 1831 (RCAHM, 1917). The site was visited during the 2002-2003 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Project (N.Cook et al, 2003) and recorded as a low circular barrow consisting of a cairn of turf covered stones, 11 metres in diameter and 0.70 metres high. The Ordnance Survey recorded this site in 1976 as a turf covered cairn located on the highest part of a hill in open moorland. A concrete trig point has been inserted into the centre of the mound. Some of the cairn stones are visible through the turf cover, of which approximately 20% are quartz. There are also some flat stones exposed on the top of the barrow, which may be associated with the insertion of the trig point. There is a 360-degree panoramic view, with good views of Pen y Fan and the Carmarthenshire Fan...to Frenni Fawr in north Pembrokeshire...and the mast at Pencader.



Looking north, Carn Nantarast round barrow (PRN 4100)

The round barrow was seen, during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (28/01/2009), to be under permanent grass cover in an area of moorland and appears stable. There are no signs of breaks in the ground surface or erosion and the area is under low-intensity grazing.

2	HAFOD Y GARREG (7874)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN70504885	B		Specific
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Deserted farmstead site. Little remains of the buildings, just fragmentary wall bases. Damage seems to have occurred due to the use and maintenance of a trackway through the site itself. Some deliberate removal of material must have occurred also. The ruined remains of Hafod y garreg were recorded during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009. It is aligned east-west along a south-facing hillside, with the farm track running through the site. Stone from the building is understood, from the owner, to have been used in the construction of the track and very little now remains of the structure. There are limited stretches of stonework, up to ten courses high, but most of the site has tumbled, been removed or become overgrown with thick grasses.



(Left) filming at the sheepfold for S4C drama series 'Dihirod Dyfed' in the late 1980s (photograph supplied by the owner), looking west over the sheepfold (PRN 94609)

DINAS FAWR ([4125](#))

Iron Age hillfort? SN77324350 B

Generic

Probable hillfort site identified from aerial photographs. RPS Nov 2002. An irregular oval-shaped earthwork c. 61 x 30m was recorded in 1873 (W.Rees) and faint cropmark traces of an earthwork were identified from aerial photographs taken in the 1940s. A field visit as part of the Prehistoric Defended Settlements Project in 2008 did not record any earthworks, finding only natural topography (F.Murphy et al, 2008).



Looking south across the summit of Dinas Fawr (PRN 4125)

Dinas Fawr was seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009. The steep eastern and northern slopes and lower southern slopes of the hill are under the mixed woodland of Allt Pwll-priddog while the western side is under pasture. The site is in a good location for a hillfort, being defensible and overlooking the Tywi, and although no evidence for earthworks were noted on the surface, archaeological deposits may be preserved below ground.

DINAS BACH ([5543](#))

**Iron Age?
defended
enclosure?**

SN777432 B

Generic

"Dinas" is a place-name that can indicate that an Iron Age hillfort exists in the vicinity (RPS October 2001). Aerial survey by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) confirmed the likelihood of an enclosure existing on the summit of the steep sided knoll called Dinas Bach.



Looking southeast from Dinas Fawr, across to Dinas Bach

In 2007 a field visit recorded possible evidence of earthworks at this location – “it occupies a semi-circular shaped area of fairly level ground at the summit of the hill. The ground falls away sharply on all sides. Slight traces of a bank are visible on the west and east defining the arc of the semi-circle. There is a suggestion of an outer ditch on the east as well. There is no indication of a bank on the long southern side but the present field boundary may well follow along the same line, and the ground falls sharply away to the south so providing a natural defence.” (F.Murphy, 2007).

PWLL PRIDDOG	Post Medieval lead	SN77654342	C	Generic
LEVEL (8935)	mine			

Minor metal mine working. Disused. RPS Nov 2002 The site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009.

CWM-YR-OLCHFA	Bronze Age?	SN72405036	B	Generic
(14835)	platform?			

Distinctly dished platform, 4.5 x 3.5m. Perhaps the result of a fallen tree. G. Williams May 1993. The location of this site was looked for during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009 but nothing was seen. The area is under thick moorland grasses and reeds that may well have concealed the feature.

GWERN-HIRION	Post Medieval	SN77414394	B	Generic
(21840)	cottage			

Cottage shown on 1906 6" OS map. Now ruined (RPS 2001). The site was recorded during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit as an approximately square, 10x10 metre, building. Very little now remains of the structure, with only some overgrown, largely incomplete and tumbled stone walls still visible. The best-preserved section is the southwestern side, where a short length of wall stands to a maximum 0.80 metres.



Looking east, the ruined remains of Gwern Hirion cottage (PRN 21840)

The rest of the building is very spread out and quite indistinct in places, although there is a possible internal division apparent in the northeast corner. A further stretch of stone tumble extends from the southwest corner, a possible revetment wall for a levelled platform that may represent a front garden or yard.

HAFOD Y GARREG **Post Medieval** **SN70504892** **B** **Generic**
[\(36014\)](#) **platform**

50 metres northeast of Hafod y Garreg cottage is this classic cross-contour platform. It dips slightly to the south with a fall of about 1 metre across the platform. It measures 12 metres north-south x 8 metres east-west. Overall, including fan and hood, it is 24 metres long. No trace of structure on platform. The site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009.

ESGAIR GAEO [\(36016\)](#) **Post Medieval long** **SN724505** **A** **SAM CM2** **Generic**
hut

A drystone ruin. The building is a simple structure with stone foundations. It measures approximately 10 metres x 6 metres in size. The considerable quantities of stonework present within the ruined building suggest that the walls could have originally been quite high, not requiring the use of turf or cob on top of the stone. Today most of the stone rubble lies at the upper end of the house, giving the impression that a small gable could have collapsed inwards. There are no signs of internal subdivisions or of a chimney or fireplace (Cadw, 1999).



Looking southeast, remains of Esgair Gaeo longhut (PRN 36016)

The house ruins were seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit (28/01/2009). The site is in an area of low-intensity, upland grazing and is under no immediate threat. Much of the house foundation is under grass cover with exposed stone concentrated towards the northern end of the site and the area is surrounded by a thick growth of reeds.

ESGAIR GAEO [\(36017\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN724505** **A** **SAM CM29** **Generic**
enclosure

The main enclosure is defined by banks 2 metres wide with a slight outer ditch. It measures 30 x 45 metres and completely encloses the dwelling (PRN 36016) that lies in the southeast corner (Cadw, 1999). The site was seen, during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit, to be in an area of low-intensity, upland grazing. A mound of earth within the enclosure, to the north of the house remains, is a fox den of some years' standing.

ESGAIR GAEO [\(36018\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN724505** **A** **SAM CM29** **Generic**
enclosure

A second enclosure to the south of the Esgair Gaeo dwelling, outside the main enclosure. It is aligned east-west and a single earth bank, some 51 metres long and 0.40 metres high, runs north-south off its west end. Its function is unclear (RPS, 1999). A component of Deserted Rural Settlement PRN 36015. This feature was not noted during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009, and it was most likely obscured by the thick coat of reeds that surround the area of the house ruins.

ESGAIR GAEO [\(36019\)](#) **Post Medieval** **SN724505** **A** **SAM CM29** **Generic**
sheen fold?:

sunken shelter

Sunken fold or shelter. Within the main enclosure, above and to the side of the dwelling, there is a large sunken area measuring approximately 8 metres by 4 metres. It is surrounded by banks and with a floor level perhaps 0.60 metres or more below that of the main enclosure. On the lowest, east, side the bank defining the hollow is particularly large and irregular in appearance. The function of this feature is unknown. It would appear to be much too large to have been a sunken store and would probably have been too damp for such a purpose. The impression is not dissimilar to a pond but its position close to the house would make this an unlikely position for one (Cadw, 1999). The site was seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit to be under low-intensity, upland grazing and marsh and there were no immediate threats apparent.

[\(64772\)](#)

**Post Medieval
footbridge**

SN77744361 C

Generic

Footbridge over the Afon Tywi shown on 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Not recorded on modern mapping and no sign of the structure seen during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009.

[\(64774\)](#)

**Post Medieval
footbridge**

SN70694817 C

Generic

Footbridge recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map but not shown on modern mapping. The site was not visited during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009.

NANTARAST [\(94610\)](#)

**Post Medieval
pillow mound?**

SN73505048 B

Generic

Possible pillow mound, or rabbit warren, recorded during field visit in 2009. A substantial, linear mound with ditch aligned north-south at right-angles to the base of a slope. It is approximately 2 metres high, 4-5 metres wide and some 15 metres in length and located in upland moor, near to an old drovers' road.

"Warrens were a very common feature of the medieval and post-medieval landscape but they are, nevertheless, surprisingly poorly documented in the historical record... The most common of the archaeological remains left by warrening are the distinctive low mounds first termed 'pillow mounds' by O.G.S. Crawford in the 1920s. ... The mounds do not usually resemble a pillow in the modern sense, but rather an old-fashioned bolster, long and thin in shape. But, in addition, it is clear that there was a common vernacular term for these features: they were called 'buries', 'berries' or 'burrows', and leases for warrens often insisted that they should be kept in good repair. " (Williamson, 2006).



Looking southeast, earthwork bank, possible pillow mound (PRN 94610), across centre of photograph.

The profiles of upland pillow-mounds tend to be more ridged and the mounds are normally higher than those found in lowland areas. The length of the mounds varies greatly, from less than 6 metres to 150 metres, but the majority have a width of between 4 and 8 metres. "Pillow mounds can occur in level situations but are more common on sloping ground, where they are usually orientated roughly at right angles to the contours... There are well over two thousand individual pillow mounds recorded in England and Wales...most have been noted in the west, especially on the moorlands of Wales, Devon and Cornwall, in the Cotswolds, and on the chalk downlands of Wessex. Up to a point this distribution is the consequence of later land-use patterns" (Williamson, 2006)

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 that are in addition to and (in the case of conflict) take precedence over the generic requirements:

Site 1 on MAP 1**CARN NANT-YR-AST ([4100](#))****SN72104946**

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

The round barrow is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM364). Cadw do not identify any specific issues with the management of this site, which is under upland grazing, but do suggest that the occasional control of the rushes would be useful (Cadw, 2008).

Site 2 on MAP 1**HAFOD Y GARREG ([7874](#))****SN70504885**

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

It is understood that the owner wishes to rebuild the dwelling as cottage. Unfortunately such a scheme falls outside the parameters of Tir gofal, as it is beyond the scope of a restoration project and it is not planned to be used for agricultural purposes. Such a proposal would fall within the remit of the local planning authority.

Site 3 on MAP 1**ESGAIR GAEO ([36015](#))****SN724505**

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

The Deserted Rural Settlement site of Esgair Gaeo, incorporating long hut (PRN 36016), enclosures (PRNs 36017 and 36018) and sunken feature (PRN 36019), is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM CM298). Cadw do not identify any real issues with the management of the site, which is under upland grazing, but do suggest that some control of the rushes now and again would be useful (Cadw, 2008)

Site 4 on MAP 1**NANTARAST ([94609](#))****SN70324875**

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

The owner would like to restore the sheepfold and keep it in use. Dyfed Archaeological Trust welcomes such a scheme.

The walls of the enclosure are of drystone wall construction, with an entrance to the north and an exit to the west, opening to the fast-flowing stream. It is understood that some restorative work was undertaken on the structure for the filming of the S4C drama series Dihirod Dyfed in the late 1980s. The sheepfold would now benefit from some further restoration of the stonework. It is not known whether the enclosure originally had permanent, wooden gates or hurdles, possibly of willow, were put in place when it was in use.

Repair

The management aim is to return the sheepfold to a stable, usable condition. Tir Gofal advice advocates the use of materials that match those used originally. Repairs should be undertaken on a like-for-like basis, modelled on the originals and using similar materials and methods of construction.

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
NANTARAST (64773)	Post Medieval farmstead	SN70824826	B	Generic

Farmstead recorded on the 1888 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as a courtyard complex. The farmhouse still stands, albeit modified and extended but the farm buildings were seen, during the Tir Gofal archaeological farm visit of 28/01/2009, to be modern constructions of mainly breezeblock and box-profile corrugated-iron.



Looking south towards Nantarast farmstead from Hafod y garreg

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:

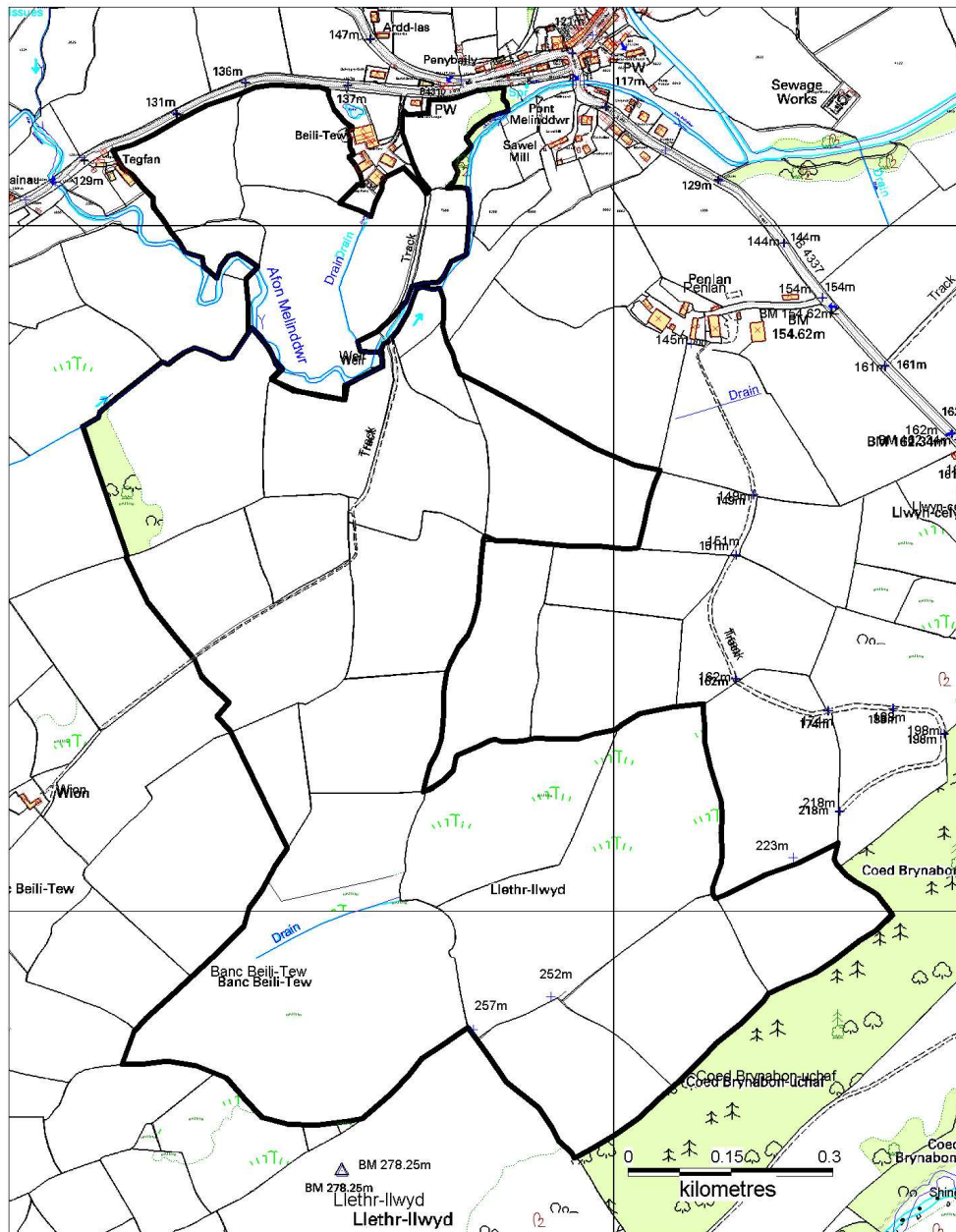
Generic Management Prescriptions - see also General Requirements section B2

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 that 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.

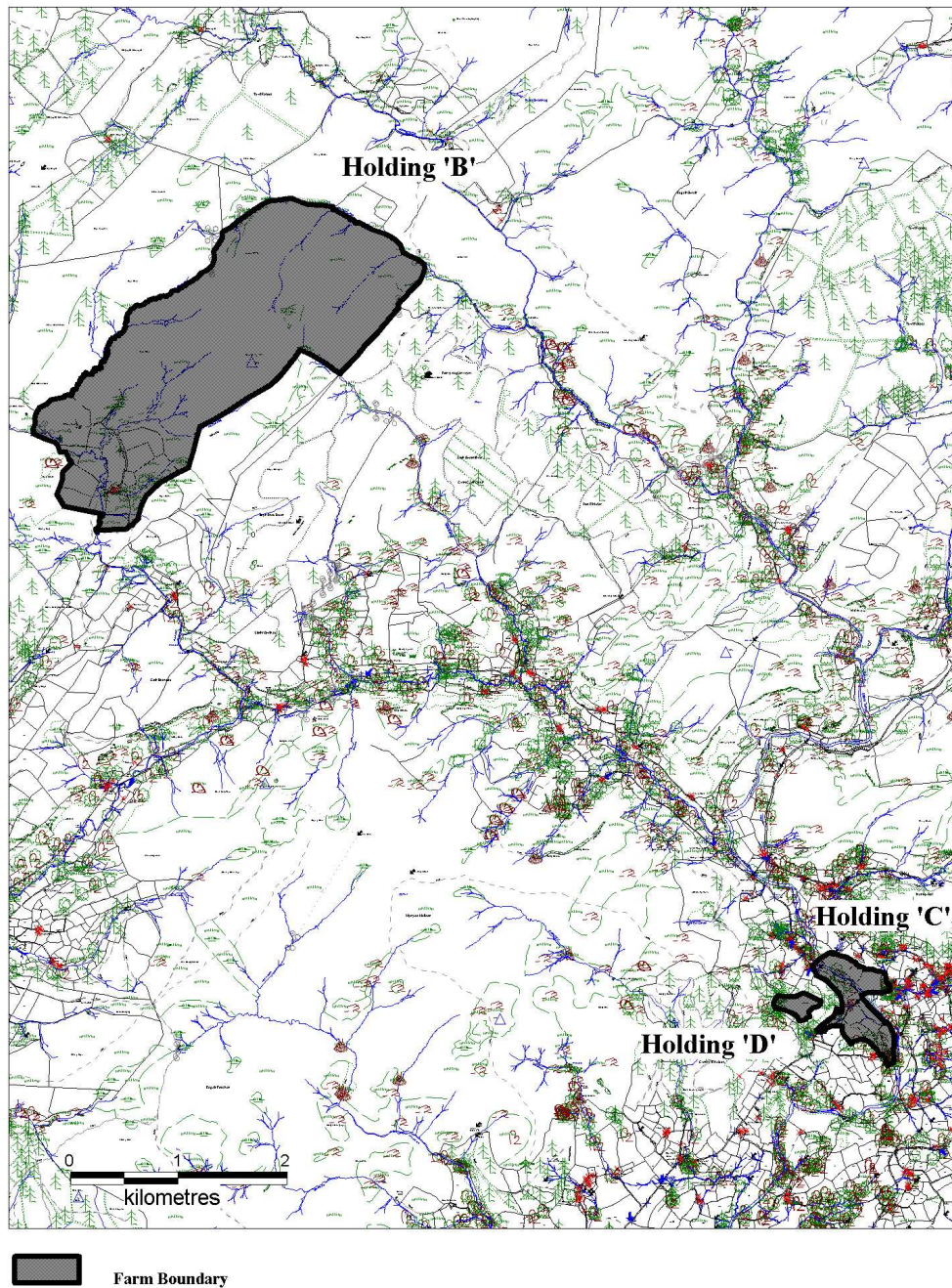
iii) HISTORIC PARKS AND GARDENS:

There are no Historic Parks and Gardens in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for the application area



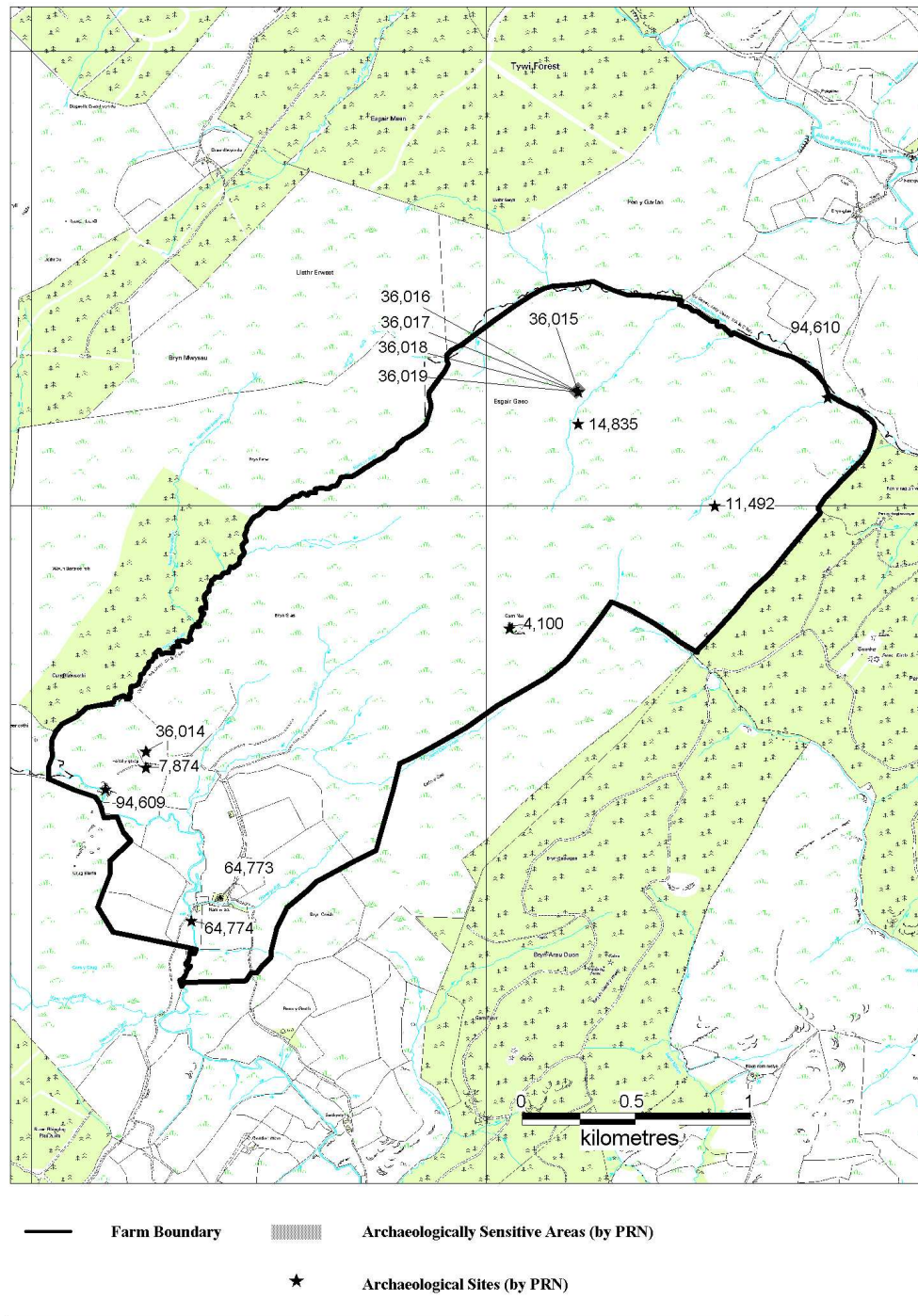
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Fig 1: Map showing Llansawel farm holding 'A'



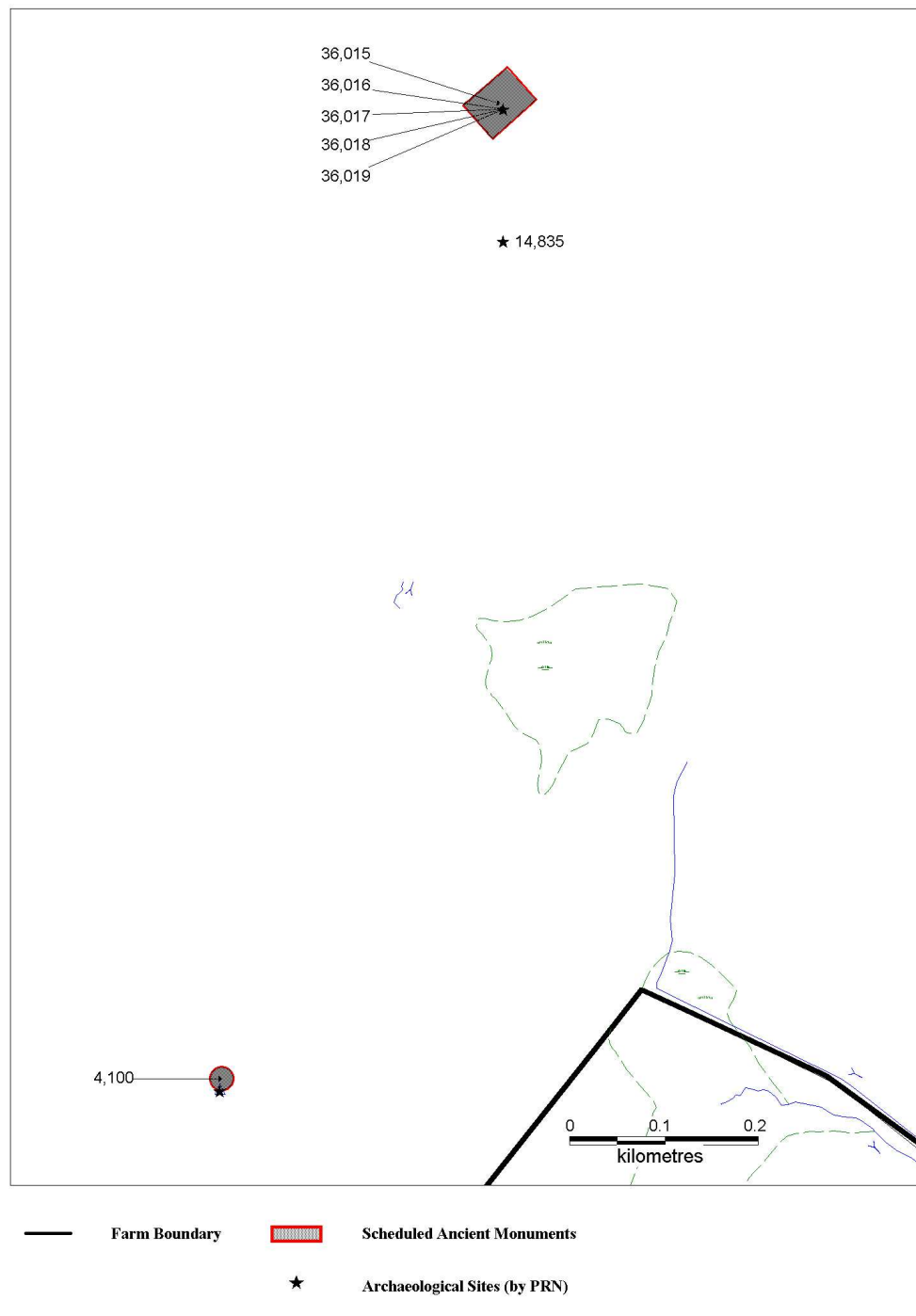
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Fig 2: Location map for farm holdings 'B', 'C' and 'D'



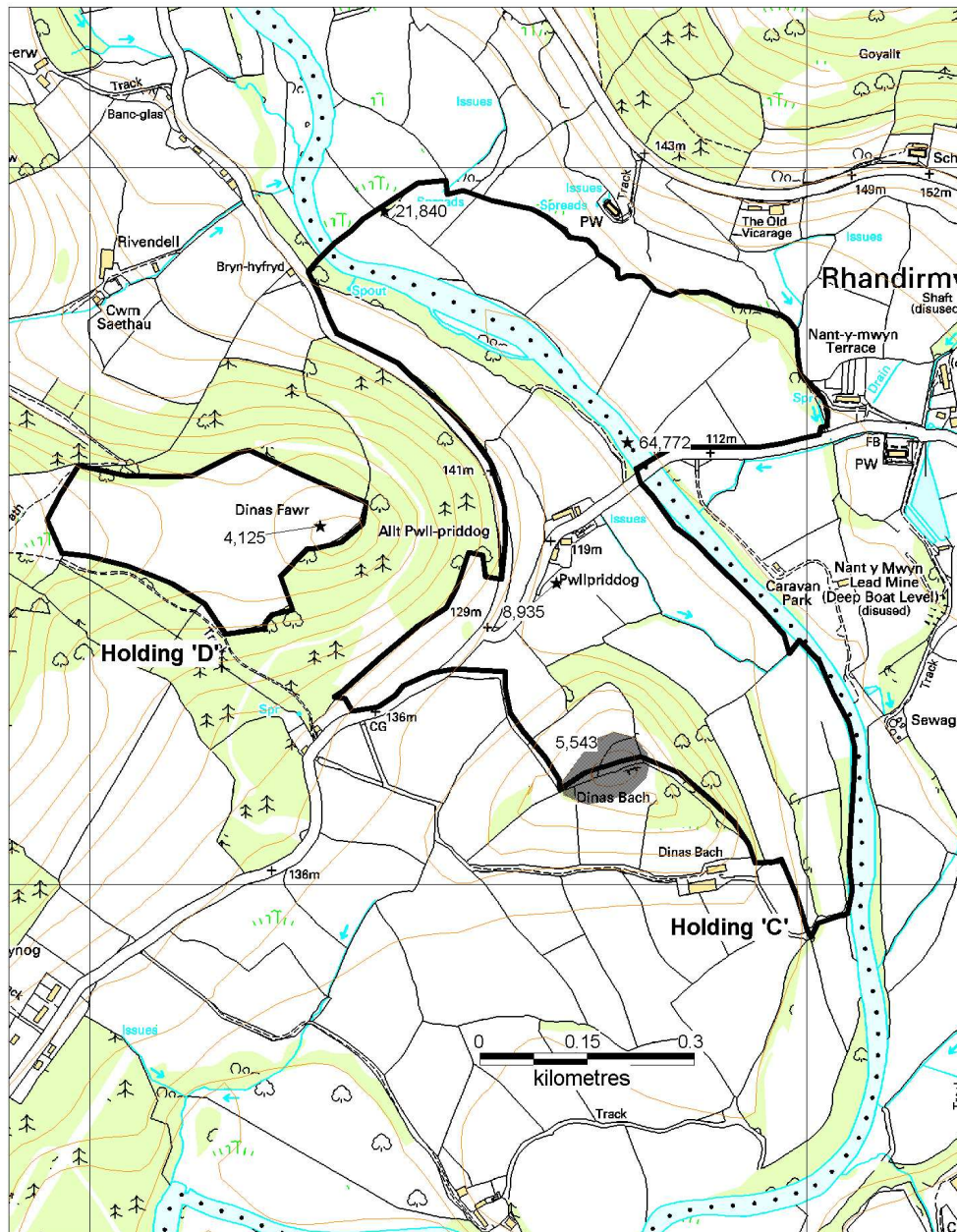
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Fig 3: Map showing the Nantarast farm holding 'C'



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Fig 4: Map showing the extent of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments in holding 'B'



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Fig 5: Map showing the Rhandirmwyn farm holdings 'C' and 'D'

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This HE2 report supercedes the information given in the [HE1 report](#) for this farm.

Sources consulted:

Historic Environment Record for Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire

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CARMARTHENSIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 216 RHANDIRMWYN

GRID REFERENCE: SN 776421

AREA IN HECTARES: 804.90

Historic Background

An area in the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains either side of the headwaters of the River Tywi, which formed the boundary between Cantref Bychan to the east and Cantref Mawr to the west. Cantref Bychan was invaded by the Anglo-Normans under Richard Fitz Pons who established a *caput* at Llandovery in 1110-16 (Rees n.d.) and was acquired soon after by the Clifford lords of Brecon as the Lordship of Llandovery. Cantref Mawr remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284. Both retained native tenurial customs until the end of the Medieval period when they were united within modern Carmarthenshire. Much of the area east of the Tywi lay within the Manor of Nant-y-bai, which had been granted as a grange to the Cistercians of Strata Florida, probably by Gruffydd ap Rhys in c.1200. The nucleus may have lain at Bron-y-cwrt within Area 216 (Williams 1990, 58). It was an upland grange, probably operated by tenant farmers primarily concerned with the mountain pasturing of animals, although the present mill has origins as a Medieval corn mill indicating that arable was undertaken in pockets of good soil (Sambrook and Page 1995, 18). The name Rhandirmwyn contains a 'shareland' element (*rhandir*), suggesting that the tenants held their land by inheritance, with perpetual right to their holdings (Rees, 1924, 200). The manor continued after the Dissolution as the Ystrad-ffin estate. A survey of 1629 (Carmarthenshire Record Office, Lort Muniments 17/678) shows that it contained most of the surrounding farms and demonstrates that the present settlement pattern was more-or-less already in place; the present system of medium-sized irregular fields may also have been established. Pwll-priddog, which has Medieval origins, was held separately from both the manor and the grange by the Morgan family (Jones 1987, 168). The area is chiefly characterised by former lead mining which may have begun under the Cistercians (Williams 1990, 58), or even the Romans (James 1982, 34); it was certainly undertaken in this area by the late 13th century, the crown taking the 'eleventh foot' of the ore in taxation (Rees 1968). This would imply that a mining community, of unknown size, may have existed in the vicinity of Rhandirmwyn and Nant-y-bai. Rhandirmwyn may

have been comparatively large by the 18th century - possibly exceptional by local standards - as the mines employed 400 workers in 1791 (Sambrook and Page 1995, 23), and the present nucleation features worker terracing, and the new church of St Barabas from the mid 19th-century. Lead mining ceased in the early 20th-century. The presence of coal is noted in the place-name 'Nant-y-glo' and a quarry operated in the southern part of the area. The later 19th- and 20th-century have mainly been characterised, however, by scattered development of cottages and dwellings. A sewage works has been erected to the south of Rhandirmwyn.

Description and essential historic landscape components

Rhandirmwyn character area lies in the upper Tywi valley where the sides open out to form a large bowl-shape. The valley floor lies at between 100 m and 120 m, and the valley sides within this area rise to over 180 m. This is a complex area as it consists of small irregular fields, dispersed farms, woodland and conifer plantation, lead mines and their associated communities, and 19th- and 20th-century cottages and houses. Improved pasture is the dominant land-use within the system of small, irregular fields, but large pockets of rough and rushy ground are present, particularly towards the valley floor. Boundaries consist of earth banks topped with hedges. Hedges are in poor condition with less than 50% stockproof. Most are either overgrown or derelict. Wire fences supplement the hedges. Many of the hedges have distinctive trees, and these together with the numerous deciduous copses and small conifer plantations lend a wooded aspect to the landscape. The ancient settlement pattern in this area comprises dispersed farms. These are stone-built with slate roofs, and generally date to the 19th century. Most are two-storeys with three bays and tend to be in the vernacular tradition, though examples in a more polite Georgian style are present. Stone-built outbuildings are present at most farms, as are large agricultural buildings. Remains of the lead mining industry lie mainly outside this area, but Rhandirmwyn community which grew up to serve it is located here. It consists of dispersed stone-built dwellings and chapels of 19th century date. Individual houses and cottages are present, as are terraces of two-storey and single storey houses. Stone-built worker cottages of 19th century date, and 20th century brick built worker houses are situated in isolated locations alongside roads away from the main community. Recent housing consists of individual dwellings.

Recorded archaeology chiefly comprises lead mining features and buildings, but includes a Bronze Age standing stone and round barrow, and two possible barrows, an Iron Age hillfort and possible Medieval well and chapel sites.

There are a number of distinctive buildings but few of them are listed. Nant-y-bai mill is Grade II listed, with an overshot, timber and cast-iron wheel and corn-drying kiln within. Dugoedydd and Pwll-priddog have both been rebuilt. The church, worker housing, post office and public house in Rhandirmwyn should be noted. There are several nonconformist chapels

This is a distinct area. It is well defined by conifer plantations to the northeast and west (Areas 217 to the west, that to the northeast has yet to be defined), and by high semi-enclosed land to the east and south (Area 223). To the north and to the southwest definition is less good; there is a zone of change rather than a distinct border between this area and Areas 215 and 218.

Conservation priorities

Decay evident in some of the boundary hedges is seriously eroding the historic character of parts of this area; this problem needs to be addressed. Consideration should also be given to the management of the ancient broadleaf woodland.

CARMARTHENSHIRE: TYWI VALLEY

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA: 217 CWM-Y-RHAEADR

GRID REFERENCE: SN 765435

AREA IN HECTARES: 246.40

Historic Background

A small area on the steep eastern flank of Mynydd Malláen, lying within the former Cwmwd Malláen of Cantref Mawr which remained an independent Welsh lordship until 1284, and largely retained native systems of tenure throughout the Medieval period. It also lies within the ecclesiastical parish of Cilycwm which may have later Medieval origins in the 14th century (Ludlow 1998). The area has little contemporary settlement, which reflects its historic usage; however, the name 'Dinas' may represent an Iron Age hillfort for which there appears to be no physical evidence. The area is depicted as open pasture on the earliest historic maps and is still largely unenclosed, and the presence of a sheepfold testifies to its predominantly pastoral use. Such farmsteads and enclosures as exist mainly relate to 18th- and early 19th-century encroachment into former open land. There is a small former lead mine on the eastern edge which may have early origins. Mining was being undertaken in this area by the late 13th-century, the crown taking the 'eleventh foot' of the ore in taxation (Rees 1968), but had largely ceased by the late 19th-century. Much of the area has been subject to later 20th century conifer plantation under the (then) Forestry Commission.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This character area lies on the steep valley sides of the Tywi and its tributaries. The height range of this area is between 140 m and over 300 m. Apart from a little deciduous woodland on lower slopes, some open moorland on steep slopes, and an old small farmstead - Cwm-y-Rhaeadr - with a few adjacent fields, this whole area is under 20th century conifer plantations. Most of these plantations were established on unenclosed moorland on the steep valley sides. The only exception to this is at and around Cwm-y-Rhaeadr where former fields were planted over.

There is little recorded archaeology, being confined to the possible Iron Age hillfort site, the lead mine and buildings.

None of the buildings are distinctive, comprising 19th century cottages and farms, a sheepfold and 20th century water towers.

This is a distinct area, and stands in contrast with the open moorland (Area 247) to the west and enclosed farmland to the south, north and east (Areas 215, 216 and 218).

Conservation priorities

There are no historic landscape conservation priorities in this area.