

Second World War and later Camps and Ranges

Interim Report 2015-16: Ceredigion Desk-Based Assessment



Aberaeron hutted camp (PRN 102533) RAF 106G/UK 1631 8 July 46 2024

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For Cadw



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Second World War and later Camps and Ranges Ceredigion Desk-Based Assessment

Gan / By

Alice Pyper and Marion Page

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Eboist: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: Prof. B C BURNHAM CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA

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SUMMARY

Recent years have seen a series of projects to address the lack of understanding and knowledge of sites in Wales which relate to the conflicts of the Twentieth Century. In 2015 the first assessment of Military Camps and Ranges was carried out looking at the county of Carmarthenshire (Pyper 2015). The focus was camps and ranges established and in use during the Second World War and succeeding years. This follow-up report applies the same criteria to former county of Cardiganshire, now Ceredigion.

*This is the first phase of work, a desk-based assessment, gathering documentary sources including primary and secondary sources to establish the number, type, location and extent of sites. A range of site types have been considered and include; military ranges, military camps (British and American), hospitals, prisoner of war and resettlement camps, depots and land army camps. **Five sites** were recorded in the HER at the outset of the exercise, these have now been updated and a further **48 new sites** have been added to the record. Where possible aerial photographs have been used to establish the extent of the camps or ranges and these have been mapped onto MapInfo GIS. The information from this assessment will contribute to our understanding of the impact of the 20th century conflicts through its archaeology and surviving structures. It will provide a basis for follow-up fieldwork to assess national or regional significance of surviving archaeological remains and also provide information for heritage management and development control purposes.*

INTRODUCTION

This study of Camps and Ranges in Ceredigion forms part of a phased programme of work being undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts, addressing the lack of information on the archaeology and historic environment which stems from the conflicts of the twentieth century. Cadw have grant-aided the investigation of various classes of site across Wales, and within Dyfed, Military Airfields and their dispersed sites, crashed Military Aircraft sites, scoping exercises to investigate the archaeology of the First World War, and now a desk-based assessment on Camps and Ranges within Carmarthenshire, have so far been addressed, (Cadw 2009, 4, Pyper 2012, 2013a & b, 2014a & b, Pyper 2015). It also builds on the work carried out during the Defence of Britain programme, co-ordinated by the Council for British Archaeology.

The project addresses several of the themes and sub-themes identified in the research agenda of *Modern Military Matters* (Schofield 2004, p14), which acknowledges that Camps are one of the least studied categories of site and the difficulty of establishing overall figures for the numbers of camps established. This assessment takes into consideration any military established base or range and includes the army, air force and naval camps and ranges which vary in scale. Thus, the range of sites in this class is vast including; military camps, ranges including training facilities for small arms or weapons testing and any associated structures, smaller camps associated with searchlight or anti-aircraft batteries, hospitals, prisoner of war camps, internment camps, resettlement camps, temporary camps for American troops prior to D-Day, Home Guard headquarters, camps and training areas and also camps for Conscientious Objectors, the Women's

Land Army, etc. This report constitutes the first stage, a desk-based assessment, to be followed by site visits to record surviving remains.

This study is not addressing camps established prior to, or during the First World War associated with the Yeomanry and Territorial Forces, as these will be assessed through the on-going First World War project. This report concentrates on the massive military expansion and mobilisation which took place immediately preceding and during the Second World War, those camps and ranges which continued in use in post war years and sites in continued military use. Many of these sites were temporary and rapidly constructed, and many with only a basic infrastructure provided. In other cases existing buildings, often large houses, were requisitioned to serve as headquarters with personnel billeted in the house and other temporary structures erected within the grounds.

The history attached to each of the sites varies, with many different units and nationalities moving through, perhaps only for a short period of time, which is recorded through various War Diaries held in the National Archives including those of the Carmarthen Sub Area Headquarters (WO 166/6729 & 1270) and Lampeter Command Supply Depot (WO 155/5155).

Some sites continued in use beyond the end of hostilities, many prisoner of war camps were not decommissioned until the late 1940s (Hellen 1999, 191). Occasionally some sites continued in use through the Cold War and continue in use to this day. The report focusses on sites that are, or have been owned, leased or licensed by the military, and not extensive areas of private land which have been used for military training (TOPL; Training Over Private Land).

The information collated in this report will contribute to our understanding of the impact of the 20th century conflicts through its archaeology and surviving structures, provide a basis for follow-up fieldwork, and provide information and advice for heritage management purposes and for development control and forward planning in Local Planning Authorities.

PROJECTS AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The projects aims and objectives are set out in the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Cadw Grant-Aided Programme Project Proposals 2015-16;

The overall aims of the project are:

- an application of definition, classification, quantification and distribution of these sites in Carmarthenshire,
- an assessment of the archaeological significance of these sites in both a regional and national perspective,
- an assessment of the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource,
- recommendations for scheduling and listing

These aims will be fulfilled following the fieldwork assessment in part two of the project.

The desk-based assessment's objectives are:

- To access and assess available primary and secondary sources for each of the camps and ranges within Ceredigion,
- To incorporate this information into the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record (HER), creating new sites or enhancing existing ones,
- To create GIS polygons to be supplied for heritage management advice.

METHODOLOGY

The way in which this project has been approached mirrors that of previous threat related projects undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts with grant-aid from Cadw. Maps, plans and aerial photographs were consulted for each site. Records were created and new point and polygon-based GIS data compiled as a result of the research. This information is now integrated into the regional Historic Environment Record and is available through the HER and through the Archwilio website.

The following methodology was adopted to achieve the project's objectives:

- An assessment of existing records within the HER,
- An assessment of existing records within the NMR / Coflein,
- An assessment of the records held in the Defence of Britain archive,
- A rapid overview of sources during a visit to the National Archives,
- An assessment of records held at the local records office, in this case Ceredigion Archives,
- An assessment of records and aerial photographs at the National Monument Record,
- An assessment of the digital records held at Fold3.com, a web-based collection of original US military records, including many from the U.S. National Archives,
- Assessment of data listed in secondary sources, on the internet or hard copy local histories and memoirs,
- Assessment of wartime and later aerial photographs,
- Creation of new records and enhancement of existing records in the HER,
- Production of a short report including a gazetteer of sites.

The National Archives and Ceredigion Archives Service were visited to consult primary sources and also the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

A number of key secondary sources were the basis for the assessment, including reports by John Schofield (2006) *England's Army Camps* and Roger J C Thomas (2003) *Prisoner of War Camps (1939-1948)*. These provided a gazetteer of known sites throughout the UK based on previous desk-based research at The National Archives.

Increasingly on-line sources are available with many groups or individuals publishing on the internet or transcribing historic documents on websites or webpages. Whilst this increases the range of sources available for consultation each has to be assessed in terms of its historical accuracy. Any references to these records are sourced in the individual site records with their corresponding Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to access the appropriate page on the internet.

All sources consulted are referenced in the individual site records.

SITE DEFINITIONS

The following site definitions were identified in the earlier Carmarthenshire study but a couple of additional site types have been added following the assessment in Ceredigion.

The primary focus for this assessment has been military installations where armed forces have been established for a permanent or temporary base. Site types and their definitions are derived from the Thesaurus of Monument Types for Wales, which is based on the Defence of Britain thesaurus definitions. The key site types identified in this study have been:

- Military Camp: a site where a body of troops is temporarily or permanently lodged, with or without entrenchments and fortifications.
- Firing Range: A piece of ground over which small arms or large artillery may be fired at targets.
- Bombing Range: An area of land, with associated buildings and targets, used for practicing the dropping of bombs and other aspects of air warfare.
- Military Base: A building or group of buildings, often surrounded by a system of fortifications, used as a residential and training site by members of an armed force.
- Military Installation: Buildings, structures and sites created for military purposes.
- Military Depot: A building or group of buildings, often enclosed by a system of fortifications, used by an armed force for the storage and distribution of military equipment.
- Military Hospital: a hospital for the medical and surgical treatment of military personnel and/or their families.
- Prisoner of War Camp: a prison site for the containment of servicemen captured in war.
- Depot: a place of deposit for the storing of goods. May include a complex of structures.
- Barracks: a building used to accommodate large numbers of individuals, often on a temporary basis, in the armed forces or at industrial sites.
- Military Headquarters: a building used as a command centre for a military operation.
- Resettlement Camp: A camp for the temporary accommodation of uprooted civilians or foreign ex-service personnel, who had fought for the British forces during WWII (e.g. Polish).
- Weapons Testing Site: Buildings, sites and structures associated with the demonstration and testing of weapons and military equipment.
- Rocket Test Facility: An area for the testing of rockets and guided missiles. Includes all structures associated with both the firing and testing of rockets and missiles.
- Observation Post: A building or site for watching specific military activities or the movement of enemy forces, etc.
- Women's Land Army Hostel: A building used to provide accommodation for women working on the land during the First or Second World Wars, also including Women's Timber Corps.

Twentieth Century Military Sites: Second World War and later Camps and Ranges

- Women's Land Army Camp: A temporary settlement of tents or huts established to accommodate women working on the land during the First or Second World Wars, also including Women's Timber Corps.

Sites could include existing buildings which were requisitioned, or the construction of new temporary or permanent buildings, or canvas tents, which were erected for the duration of hostilities.

The guiding principal in recording sites has been those areas where military training or installations may have left an archaeological footprint and the location can be reasonably accurately identified.

Many of the sites identified have a complex history and it has not been possible to be absolutely sure of different phases of activity during the scope of this project. Further desk based research in the local archives or the National Archives may reveal their narrative histories.

Some documentary sources – for instance War Diaries or United States Army station lists - often associate military units by town or village but do not provide location information. Wartime documents record Cassini Grid references though not usually to a greater accuracy than a four figure reference, where possible these have been converted to identify with reasonable accuracy their location.

RESULTS

Prior to the assessment being carried out 5 records for camps, ranges and military installations were recorded within the HER:-

PRN	Site Name	Type	Community	NGR
30592	RAF ABERPORTH; BLAENANNERCH	Resettlement Camp; Barracks	Aberporth	SN2460049500
30595	BLAENANNERCH	Resettlement Camp	Aberporth	SN244488
31428	NO 70 HENLLAN BRIDGE CAMP	Prisoner of War Camp	Llandyfriog	SN35704020
94906	MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS	Barracks; ROCKET TEST FACILITY	Borth	SN61019395
102533	ABERAERON CAMP AND AIRSTRIP	Military Camp	Llangunnor	SN44476182

Table 1: Sites in Dyfed previously recorded in the HER

Following the assessment a further new 48 sites have been added to the HER and the existing sites updated and enhanced, see Figure 1 and the following table:

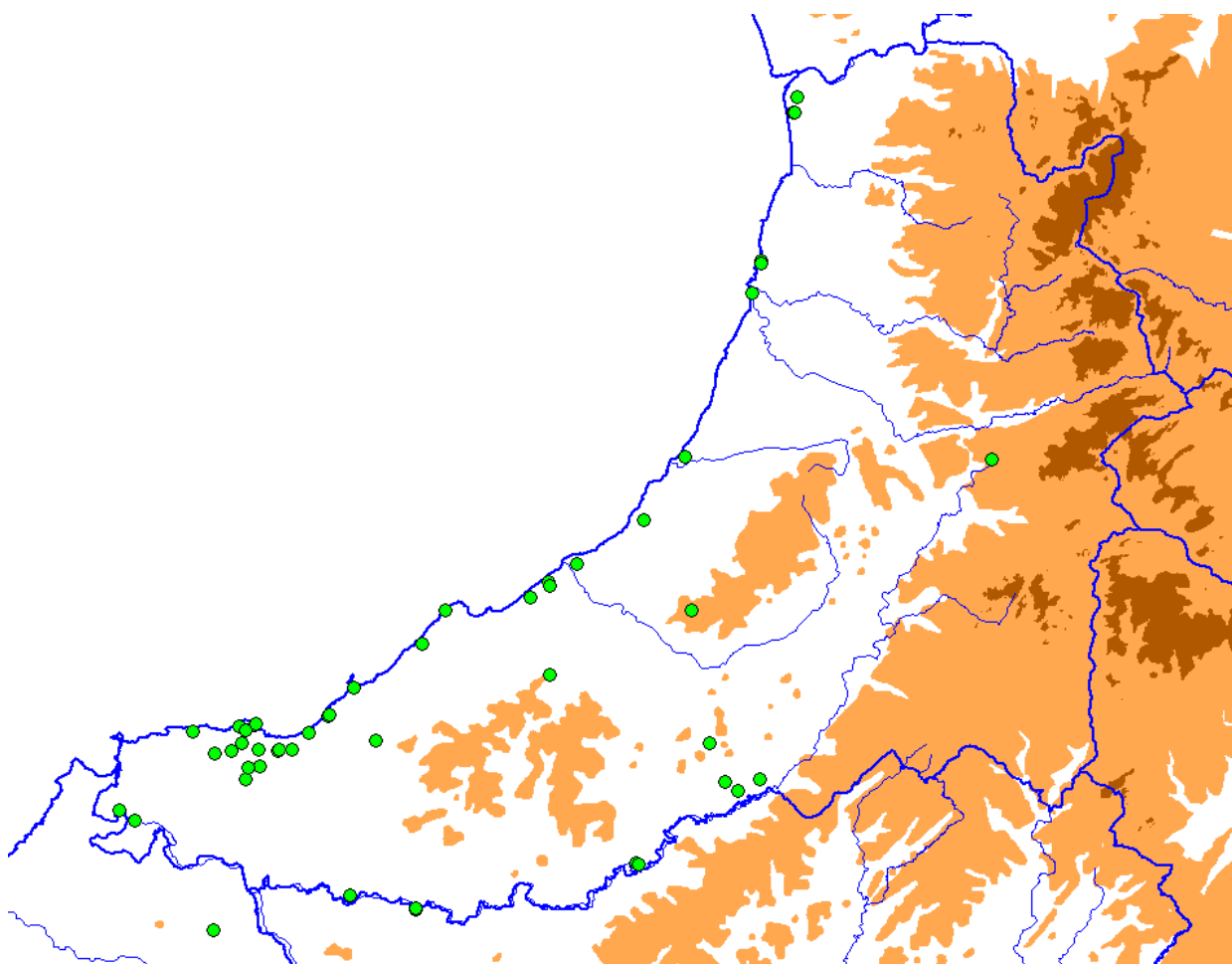


Figure 1: Distribution of sites across Ceredigion

Twentieth Century Military Sites: Second World War and later Camps and Ranges

The following sites have been identified and recorded – those shown as shaded lie beyond the boundary of Ceredigion but relate to sites identified in the county:-

PRN	Site Name	Type	Community	NGR
17198	CWM RHYS QUARRY	Quarry/Military Training ground	Lampeter	SN58474877
30592	RAF ABERPORTH; BLAENANNERCH	Resettlement Camp; Barracks	Aberporth	SN2460049500
30595	BLAENANNERCH	Resettlement Camp	Aberporth	SN244488
31428	NO 70 HENLLAN BRIDGE CAMP	Prisoner Of War Camp	Llandyfriog	SN35704020
31913	OBSERVATION POST NO 6 NEW QUAY HEAD	Coastguard Station; Observation Post	Llanllwchaearn	SN37686000
57791	FORMER P.O.W. CHAPEL AT HENLLAN CARAVAN PARK	Chapel; Prisoner of War Camp	Llandyfriog	SN3566740177
94906	MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS	Rocket Test Facility	Borth	SN61019395
94920	MOEL YNYS	Dwelling; Farmstead; Military Building	Borth	SN60759294
102533	ABERAERON CAMP AND AIRSTRIP	Military Camp	Llangunnor	SN44476182
105926	RAF ABERPORTH/BLAENANNERCH	Military Camp	Aberporth	SN2437048740
105930	OBSERVATION POST	Military Building; Observation Post	Aberporth	SN2536549645
105982	HIGHMEAD	Military Camp	Llanybydder	SN50274319
105983	HIGHMEAD	Sewage Works	Llanwenog	SN50464310
107896	ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT ABERPORTH; PROJECTILE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT; MOD ABERPORTH	Weapons Testing Site	Aberporth	SN24425200
107897	YSBYTY YSTWYTH	Army Camp	Ystrad Meurig	SN73887000
107900	ABERPORTH RANGE SHIP SIMULATOR FIRING PLATFORM	Weapons Testing Site	Aberporth	SN25085244
107901	CILGWYN	Army Camp	Llandyfriog	SN313411
107902	ST DOGMAELS	Army Camp	St Dogmaels	SN160467
109260		Firing Range	Llanwnnen	SN55155115
109261	BRYNHOFFNANT BALLOON SITE	Military Installation	Penbryn	SN33065131
109262	DOPPLER STATION NEAR PENCADER	Observation Post	Llangeler	SN40533437
109263	OBSERVATION POST NO 13 MAES Y FELIN	Observation Post	Y Ferwig	SN22335052
109264	OBSERVATION POST NO 11 PENAR NEWYDD	Observation Post	Y Ferwig	SN24105119
109265	OBSERVATION POST BLAEN FFORDD	Observation Post	Aberporth	SN23415065
109266	OBSERVATION POST NO 15 QUARRY	Observation Post	Aberporth	SN2525850750
109267	OBSERVATION POST NO 12 DOLMANOL	Observation Post	Aberporth	SN26615070
109268	OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	Penbryn	SN29875296
109269	PROJECTILE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT, CILWENDEG PARK	Military Headquarters	Boncath	SN22263878
109270	OBSERVATION POST 7 LLWYN OCHROG	Observation Post	Henfynyw	SN43326086
109271	OBSERVATION POST 5 LLANTYSILIOGOGO	Observation Post	Llandysiliogogo	SN36075773
109272	OBSERVATION POST 1 TY HEN, PENBRYN	Observation Post	Penbryn	SN28575184
109273	OBSERVATION POST NO 2 MORFA ISAF	Observation Post	Penbryn	SN29915308
109274	OBSERVATION POST NO 24 CONSTITUTION HILL	Observation Post	Aberystwyth	SN58628314

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109275	OBSERVATION POST NO 14 HELIGFAWR, BLAENPORTH	Observation Post	Aberporth	SN27475078
109276	OBSERVATION POST NO 31 STRUMBLEHEAD	Observation Post	Pencaer	SM89883899
109277	OBSERVATION POST NO 9 LLANON	Observation Post	Llansantffraid	SN50846596
109278	OBSERVATION POST NO 27 DINAS	Observation Post	Dinas Cross	SN01413793
109279	OBSERVATION POST NO 12A METEOR THEODOLITE SITE	Observation Post	Aberporth	SN26575064
109280	OBSERVATION POST NO 10 LLANRHYSTYD	Observation Post	Llanrhystyd	SN53507010
109281	OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	Aberaeron	SN46366307
109282	OBSERVATION POST NO 29 CONSTITUTION HILL	Observation Post	Aberystwyth	SN58628300
109283	OBSERVATION POST NO 28 GODRE GWYN	Observation Post	Y Ferwig	SN20885196
109284	OBSERVATION POST DINAS LOCHTYN	Observation Post	Llangrannog	SN31535485
109285	MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS	Military Camp	Borth	SN60809300
109286		Military Headquarters	Aberaeron	SN44606160
109287	ABERPORTH INCLINE RAILWAY	Railway Inclined Plane	Aberporth	SN25005234
109288	ABERPORTH ANTI-AIRCRAFT PRACTICE CAMP	Firing Range	Aberporth	SN24005232
109303	3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD	Military Headquarters	Lampeter	SN5748
109304	2nd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD	Military Headquarters	Cardigan	SN1746
109305	1st CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD	Military Headquarters	Aberystwyth	SN5881
109306	LAMPETER GOLF LINK OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	Lampeter	SN562486
109307	TRICHRUG OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	Ciliau Aeron	SN5460
109308	CROSS HANDS OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	Llanarth	SN446557

Table 2: Sites in Dyfed now recorded in the HER

The range of site types represented are recorded in the table below:-

Site Type	No
Observation Post	27
Camp (Military incl. Army)	7
Misc. associated sites	4
Firing Range	2
Military Headquarters	5
Weapons Test Site	2
Resettlement Camp	2
Military Training ground	1
Military Installation	1
Prisoner of War Camp	1
Rocket Test Facility	1
Military Hospital	0
Depot	0
Military base	0
Military Depot	0

Women's Land Army Camp	0
Bombing Range	0
Barracks	0

Table 3: Table of site types represented

Military Camps

Seven Military Camps have been identified within Ceredigion. There are records of US army bases at Highmead (PRN 105982), Cilgwyn (PRN 107901), St Dogmaels (PRN 107902), Aberporth (PRN 105926) and Llanybydder (Station Lists 1943-44), though the location of the base at Llanybydder, is unidentified and it is suspected that Highmead was the base, and perhaps other troops were billeted in the town. US army tank training also took place at Ysbyty Ystwyth (PRN 107897), (Jones 2007). Other camps include Aberaeron (PRN 102533) and Ynyslas (PRN 109285) which provided accommodation for the anti-aircraft school and rocket test facility respectively.

It is clear from the War Diaries recording the movement and supply of troops that many were also based in billets in Aberystwyth, Cardigan and Lampeter (WO 166/5155), however as yet no definitive locations have been identified.

For the purposes of recording the sites in the HER, 'Military Camp' has been used where there is evidence that the camp has been used by more than one of the military services ie. the Army and RAF, 'Army Camp', has been used where just the Army was accommodated. For the purposes of the HER their function remains the same.

Histories, as far as research has allowed at this stage, are described within each record description and are sourced within the individual HER records. Some military camps demonstrate a different phase of use, however this can be seen only at RAF Aberporth, where the airfield accommodation camps became Resettlement Camps for the Polish Army (PRNs 30592 and 30595).

Ranges; Bombing and Firing

Ranges are areas of land reserved for hazardous firing and training; they may be permanent or temporary (MOD 2011, p1). Depending on the usage of the ranges, accommodation for troops or training staff in associated military camps or bases might be present. Equally where troops were temporarily accommodated you would expect a range to zero and test small arms.

An Anti-aircraft firing range at Aberporth has been recorded (PRN 109288) as distinct from the weapons testing range adjacent to it (PRN 107896), this definition was possible due to map sources which indicate an early distinction in the two different functions of the headland, in post war years this boundary has vanished with the whole site being subsumed into one.

Although a number of 19th century rifle ranges are known in Ceredigion, only one has been identified which was brought back into use during the Second World War after a period of abandonment (PRN 109260).

Prisoner of War Camps

One Prisoner of War Camp has been identified in Ceredigion, that is No 70 Henllan Bridge Camp (PRN 31428), famous for being an Italian POW camp from 1943-46 when one of the huts was transformed into a decorative Italian chapel, painted throughout. This building is recognised as significant and is a listed building Grade II* (PRN 57791). From 1946-48 it became a German Working Camp, (Roger JC Thomas, 2003)

Military Headquarters

Five headquarters have been recorded. At Aberaeron there is an HQ associated with the Camp and Anti-Aircraft school (PRN 102533) which was based inside the nearby farmhouse and buildings (PRN 109286). The mansion of Cilwendeg was for a time the headquarters for the Aberporth Projectile Development Establishment (PRN 109286). In addition 3 Headquarters (PRNs 109303, 109304, 109305) are listed in the published account of the 3rd Battalion Cardiganshire Home Guard book (Davies and Lloyd, 1945), probably in requisitioned buildings at Lampeter, Cardigan and Aberystwyth, but their locations are unknown.

Military Base

In the Thesaurus of Monument Types for Wales 'Military Base' is a higher level classification than 'Military Camp'. Where known a more specific site type has been used.

Military Installation

This term has been used as a higher level site type where a more specific one wasn't appropriate – in this case a balloon base for launching a target balloon in association with the research and testing at Aberporth (PRN 109261).

Observation Post

A number of observation posts have been identified in connection with the military weapons test site at Aberporth (PRN 107896). These are positioned along Cardigan Bay and extend as far as Strumblehead (PRN 109276) in the south, over to Pencader in the east (PRN 109262) and on the Llyn Peninsular in the north. These are all related to tracking and measuring trajectory of missiles launched from the range at Aberporth. There are over thirty mentioned in the Royal Aircraft Establishment papers in the Ceredigion Archives but only 24 locations have been successfully identified. Many of them date from different periods of use and different systems being tested at the time and so represent an archaeological legacy of military research and development. In addition 3 Observation posts (PRNs 109306, 109307, 109308) are listed in the published account of the 3rd Battalion Cardiganshire Home Guard book (Davies and Lloyd, 1945).

Weapons Test Site and Rocket Test Facility

Both Aberporth (PRN 107896) and Ynyslas (PRN 94906) are sites which are highly significant and important, representing unique research and development during the Second World War, which at Aberporth has continued in use through the Cold War and up to the present day. At Ynyslas the site was in use for a limited time from the end of the war and immediately after and as such

represents a snapshot of time, whereas at Aberporth there is a long and complex history of use, reuse, adaption and modification to meet the needs of the new technologies being tested. An element of this, the simulated ship firing platform (PRN 107900) has already been recognised as of national importance and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Resettlement Camp

The facilities at RAF Aberporth when the airfield closed in 1946 were reused for the accommodation of the Polish Army (PRN 30952, 30595). This is the only resettlement camp which has so far been identified within Dyfed.

Miscellaneous sites

No sites have been established for Bombing Ranges, Barracks, Women's Land Army or Military Hospitals. No depots have been identified in Ceredigion, though a Command Supply Depot is recorded in Lampeter, its location remains unknown. No Naval installations have been identified within the county.

DISCUSSION

Sources

A range of sources have been drawn on to attempt to assess the range of sites in the county. Primary sources include those seen at both the National Archives and local archives. Held at the TNA, the War Office Diaries help to give an indication of the activity within the county during the war (WO166/1270, WO166/5155, WO166/6729). They do not provide details of specific locations or descriptions of sites, however they are helpful in signposting areas in which to explore further. Similarly, the Report of the Committee on the Concentration of War Department Buildings and Land in Great Britain 1956 (WO163/633) lists the properties held by the military at that time. Other documents in the National Archives refer to specific activities at different locations such as the movement of the MOS Experimental Establishment Ynyslas to Aberporth in 1946 (AVIA 48/15). A narrative history of the 3rd Battalion Cardiganshire Home Guard, published in 1945, gives a good account of the activities of the Home Guard, together with a plan showing territories. It is however exact locations of the headquarters (PRNs 109303, 109304, 109305) and observation posts (PRNs 109306, 109307, 109308) have been difficult to pinpoint with accuracy.

Ceredigion Archives hold an extensive bundle of papers relating to the Royal Aircraft Establishment Aberporth (PRN 107896) including a number of useful maps of the range. These provide an extent of the range, but also a snapshot at various points of the buildings and structures at the time. The complexities of phasing within the range and the adjoining Anti-Aircraft practice camp have not been fully teased out at this point and further work is required to understand the different activities going on at different times and the significance of any surviving archaeological remains. In addition the papers on Aberporth revealed the extensive number of Observation Posts built at

various locations along the Cardigan Bay coastline in order to track the trajectory of missiles being tested.

Aerial photographs are an essential source of information for many sites and have been particularly helpful in locating the extent of sites, such as the Camp and Anti-Aircraft school at Aberaeron, and where there is little or no documentation for sites. The National Monuments Record and the Central Registry for Aerial Photography in Wales have been very useful in supplying the relevant images.

Secondary sources vary, Schofield's report on Army Camps and the gazetteer have provided a signpost to the WO163 documents in the TNA though only Aberaryon (*sic*) and Aberporth are listed (Schofield 2006). As discovered when carrying out the Carmarthenshire camps assessment information on US camps is relatively accessible. The official history, 'Western Base Section', completed in 1947 provides a list of US army camps, available through the internet archive service 'Fold 3' <https://www.fold3.com/>. In addition station lists have been transcribed and digitised by Lt Col Philip C. Grinton; US Army (Retired) who has documented the locations of various units month by month from September 1943 to December 1944. However, locational details are limited to four figure Cassini grid references which is problematic in the absence of other documentary sources. Websites have also been valuable particularly with reference to specific sites, such as Aberporth <http://www.rafaberporth.org.uk/> and the recollections of troops staying in St Dogmaels <https://www.itracings.wordpress.com/>.

The SSD 559 ranges map is a key source for showing Aberporth and Ynyslas ranges in operation in 1945.



Archaeological potential

Twentieth Century Military Sites: Second World War and later Camps and Ranges

Table 4 below summarises the likelihood and potential significance for archaeological remains at each of the sites identified. Three categories of potential have been shown, those for 'Upstanding Remains' which includes either buildings, huts or other built structures, 'Below Ground' remains which includes hut platforms, ground works and services, earthwork banks and monuments etc. The third category is 'Associated Ephemeral Remains' which might include artefacts or unstratified remains, and graffiti or aborglyphs (graffiti carved into the bark of trees) the latter of which are becoming more widely recognised and particularly common in military contexts associated with parkland.

For each of these categories sites have been assessed; confirmed, high potential, probable, possible, unlikely, or none, based on the current level of information available.

PRN	Site Name	Type	upstanding remains	below ground	associated ephemeral
17198	CWM RHYS QUARRY	Quarry/Military Training ground	unlikely	unlikely	possible artefacts /
30592	RAF ABERPORTH; BLAENANNERCH	Resettlement camp	unlikely - redeveloped	unlikely - redeveloped	unlikely - redeveloped
30595	BLAENANNERCH	Resettlement camp	none	unlikely	probably artefactual
31428	NO 70 HENLLAN BRIDGE CAMP	Prisoner of War Camp	Confirmed – including listed chapel	High potential - hut platforms	possible artefacts / graffiti / aborglyphs
31913	OBSERVATION POST NO 6 NEW QUAY HEAD	Observation post	probable	probable	probably artefactual
57791	FORMER P.O.W. CHAPEL AT HENLLAN CARAVAN PARK	Chapel	confirmed - listed grade II*		
94906	MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS	Rocket test facility	possible	probable	probably artefactual/arms etc
94920	MOEL YNYS	Dwelling; farmstead	unlikely	unlikely	unlikely
102533	ABERAERON CAMP AND AIRSTRIP	Military camp	Possible structures	probable	probably artefactual
105926	RAF ABERPORTH/BLAENANNERCH	Military camp	none	unlikely	probably artefactual
105930	OBSERVATION POST	Observation post	confirmed	confirmed	probably artefactual
105982	HIGHMEAD	Military camp	possible	probable	possible artefacts / graffiti / aborglyphs
105983	HIGHMEAD	Sewage works	none	probable	Possible artefactual
107896	ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT ABERPORTH; PROJECTILE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT; MOD ABERPORTH	Weapons testing site	confirmed - still in use, potential high for buildings / hutting/	Confirmed - high	High potential for artefactual remains
107897	YSBYTY YSTWYTH	Army camp	unlikely	possible	Probable artefacts / arms / graffiti
107900	ABERPORTH RANGE SHIP SIMULATOR FIRING PLATFORM	Weapons testing site	confirmed - Scheduled Ancient Monument		
107901	CILGWYN	Army camp	unlikely	possible	Possible graffiti / aborglyphs
107902	ST DOGMAELS	Army camp	unlikely	unlikely	Possible graffiti / aborglyphs
109260		Firing range	unlikely	possible	probable

Twentieth Century Military Sites: Second World War and later Camps and Ranges

					artefactual
109261	BRYNHOFNANT BALLOON SITE	Military installation	Unlikely - redeveloped	Unlikely - redeveloped	possible artefactual
109262	DOPPLER STATION NEAR PENCADER	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109263	OBSERVATION POST NO 13 MAES Y FELIN	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109264	OBSERVATION POST NO 11 PENAR NEWYDD	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109265	OBSERVATION POST BLAEN FFORDD	Observation post	unlikely	possible	probable artefactual
109266	OBSERVATION POST NO 15 QUARRY	Observation post	unlikely	possible	probable artefactual
109267	OBSERVATION POST NO 12 DOLMANOL	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109268	OBSERVATION POST	Observation post	unlikely	possible	probable artefactual
109269	PROJECTILE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT, CILWENDEG PARK	Military headquarters	unlikely	possible	probable artefactual
109270	OBSERVATION POST 7 LLWYN OCHROG	Observation post	unlikely	possible	probable artefactual
109271	OBSERVATION POST 5 LLANTYSILIOGOGO	Observation post	Unlikely	possible	probable artefactual
109272	OBSERVATION POST 1 TY HEN, PENBRYN	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109273	OBSERVATION POST NO 2 MORFA ISAF	Observation post	probable	probable	probably artefactual
109274	OBSERVATION POST NO 24 CONSTITUTION HILL	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109275	OBSERVATION POST NO 14 HELIGFAWR, BLAENPORTH	Observation post	Possible	possible	probable artefactual
109276	OBSERVATION POST NO 31 STRUMBLEHEAD	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109277	OBSERVATION POST NO 9 LLANON	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109278	OBSERVATION POST NO 27 DINAS	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109279	OBSERVATION POST NO 12A METEOR THEODOLITE SITE	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109280	OBSERVATION POST NO 10 LLANRHYSTYD	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109281	OBSERVATION POST	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109282	OBSERVATION POST NO 29 CONSTITUTION HILL	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109283	OBSERVATION POST NO 28 GODRE GWYN	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109284	OBSERVATION POST DINAS LOCHTYN	Observation post	probable	probable	probable artefactual
109285	MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS	MILITARY CAMP	confirmed - BCF hutting/may be other structures	probable	artefactual
109286		MILITARY HEADQUARTERS	probable	probable hut platforms etc	probable artefactual/ graffiti
109287	ABERPORTH INCLINE RAILWAY	RAILWAY INCLINED PLANE	Confirmed	confirmed	probable
109288	ABERPORTH ANTI AIRCRAFT PRACTICE CAMP	FIRING RANGE	probable	probable	probably artefactual
109303	3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD	Military Headquarters	unknown	unknown	unknown
109304	2nd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD	Military Headquarters	unknown	unknown	unknown

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109305	1st CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD	Military Headquarters	unknown	unknown	unknown
109306	LAMPETER GOLF LINK OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	unknown	unknown	unknown
109307	TRICHRUG OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	unknown	unknown	unknown
109308	CROSS HANDS OBSERVATION POST	Observation Post	unknown	unknown	unknown

Table 4: Table showing archaeological potential

The table summarises each site on the basis of archaeological potential and offers priorities for further investigation and visits. It's worth highlighting those issues which need to be addressed in future work; perhaps the most significant sites within the county are both Ynyslas and Aberporth where there is a high archaeological potential for upstanding structures, buildings and also buried archaeological remains and because both have been involved in unique research and development weapons testing they have the potential to encapsulate nationally significant archaeological remains. Ynyslas has benefitted from research and investigation by the RCAHMS could form the basis for future recording and assessment which could potential lead to statutory protection.

Other sites which would repay further investigation are the hutted camps at Aberaeron (PRN 102533) and Highmead (PRN 105982) where there is a possibility of survival of structures or hut platforms.

The chapel at Henllan POW camp has already been assessed and listed Grade II*, but there is a high potential of other buildings and structures as well as below ground deposits surviving at the site.

Whilst requisitioned buildings such as the military headquarters at Cilwendeg (PRN 109269) and Cilgwyn (PRN 107901) that have subsequently been inhabited are unlikely to retain archaeological potential, there is parkland and therefore potential for more ephemeral archaeological material such as graffiti and aborglyphs, particularly on parkland trees.

Observation posts have made up half of the records within this report. Though many of the observation posts have gone out of use, some are still in use. There is clearly archaeological potential for many to survive as upstanding remains.

This desk-based assessment provides a base line of information of camps and ranges within the county and something which should be further enhanced through follow-up fieldwork. The archaeological implications of the work suggest a surprisingly large number of sites which were in military use from the Second World War and onwards and there is potential for archaeological remains throughout the county.

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Maps and Plans

SD 559 ranges 1945, West & South Wales and Appendices

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GAZETTEER OF SITES

Marion Page, Historic Environment Record Manager

The gazetteer is listed in alpha numeric order. Where it has been possible to identify the extent of a site then a polygon has been drawn around it and the map is included. Where applicable a corresponding wartime or post War Aerial Photograph is also attached to the record.

PRN - 17198

NAME -

TYPE -

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - **CONDITION** -

NGR COMMUNITY

HER DESCRIPTION -

SOURCES

PRN - 30592

NAME - RAF ABERPORTH; BLAENANNERCH

TYPE - Resettlement Camp/ Barracks

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Building **CONDITION** - Not Known/ NEAR DESTROYED

NGR - SN2460049500 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

Following the closure of RAF Aberporth airfield in May 1946 a Polish Army Resettlement Camp was established within the former airfield accommodation and facilities. An Officers' Reserve Corps and a Railway Battalion were posted to Aberporth. Local residents were recruited to teach English. The Polish servicemen supplied garrison staff for the vacated military installations within Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. They remained until late 1948 when they were transferred to Shobdon in Herefordshire. The 6" OS map revised in 1948 and published in 1953 identifies the airfield camp as 'Polish Resettlement Camp', this site has been extensively redeveloped. A smaller camp is situated to the south of the road, PRN 30595. A Pyper based on website;

<http://rafaberporth.org.uk/>

SOURCES - Schlee,D 2004 50862 Aberporth Airfield.pdf

Air Ministry 1958 Aberporth Record Site Plan WA9/287/58

Royal Aircraft Establishment 1974 Aberporth Lands: Building Nos (Airfield) RAE/Ab1203B

RAF 1942 M2324_107

RAF 1942 M2330a_97

Pyper,A 2012 Twentieth century military sites: Airfields

Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXse4

A History of RAF Aberporth

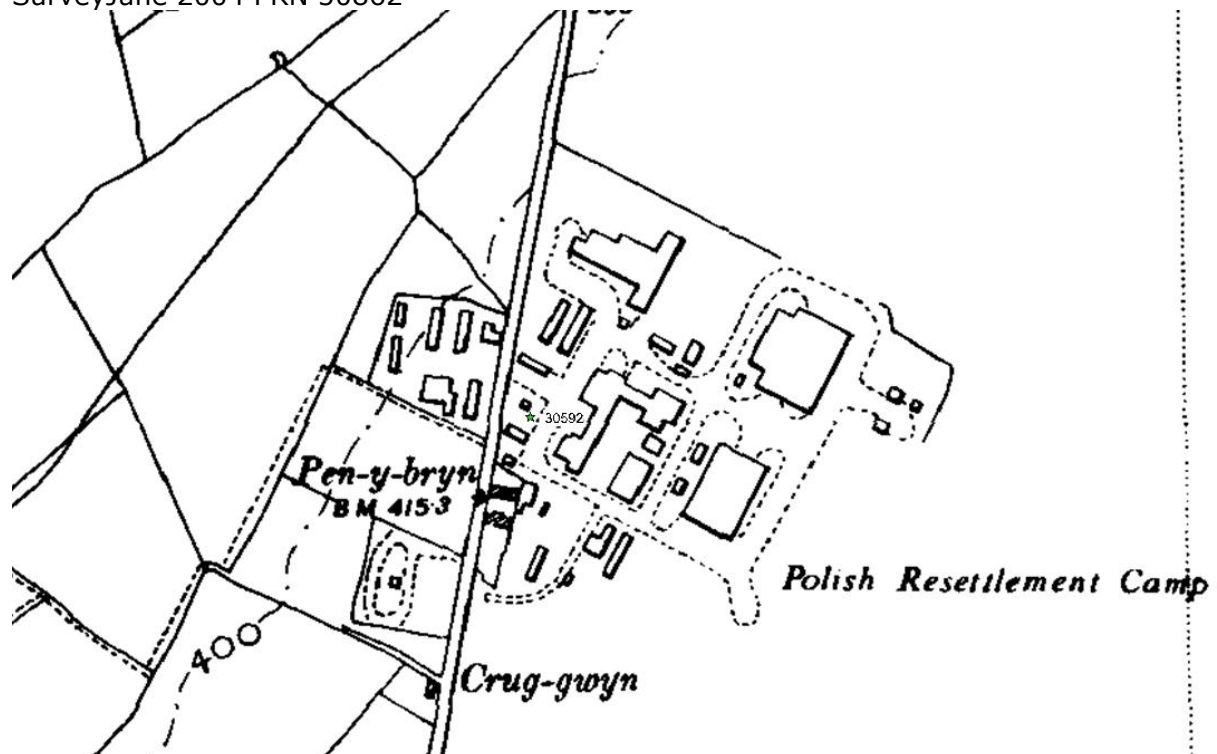
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Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXse4



PRN - 30595

NAME - BLAENANNERCH

TYPE - Resettlement Camp

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Building **CONDITION** - Not Known/ Near Destroyed

NGR - SN244488 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

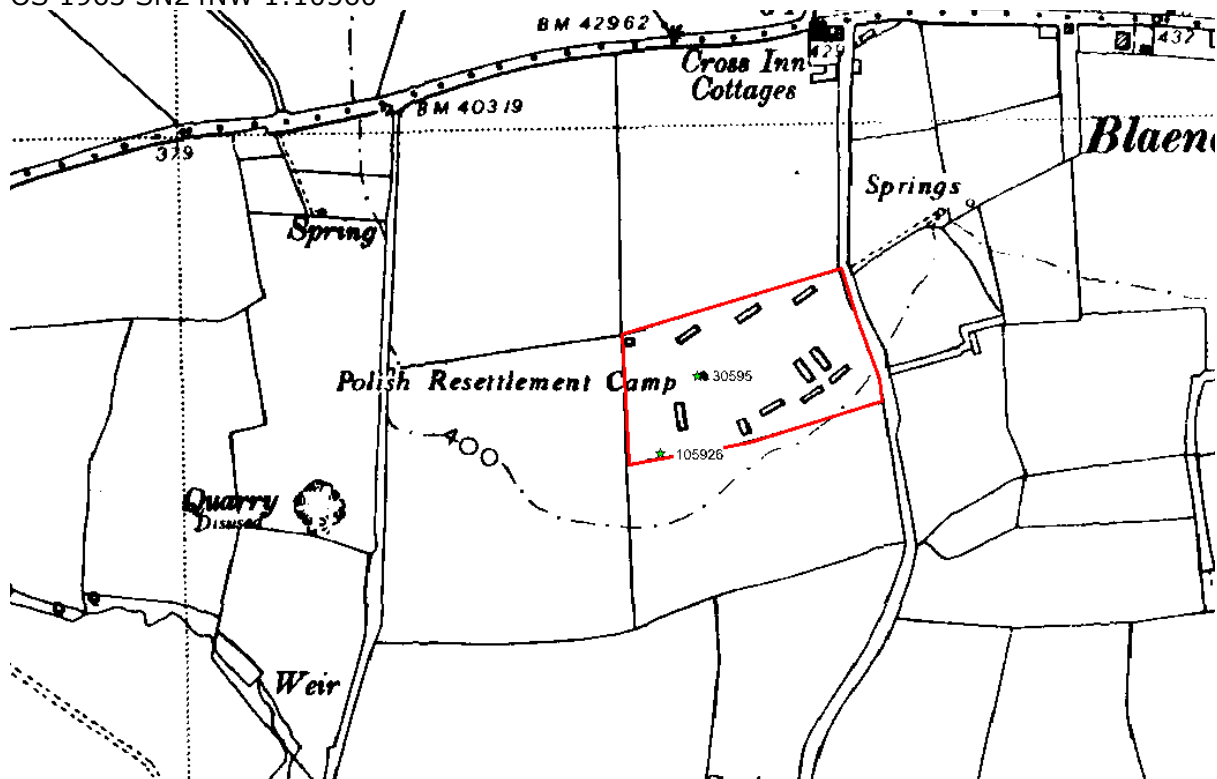
HER DESCRIPTION -

A Polish Resettlement Camp is identified on the 6" OS map revised in 1948 and published in 1953, located on the site of the former airfield accommodation, PRN 105926. Following the closure of RAF Aberporth airfield (PRN 30594) in May 1946 a Polish Army Resettlement Camp was established within the former airfield accommodation and facilities. An Officers' Reserve Corps and a Railway Battalion were posted to Aberporth. Local residents were recruited to teach English. The Polish servicemen supplied garrison staff for the vacated military installations within Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. They remained until late 1948 when they were transferred to Shobdon in Herefordshire. The OS 1953 map clearly shows at least 10 huts and a couple of smaller structures in the field to the south of the airfield. When visited in 2013 the site has been returned to agricultural use and the only remaining trace is a concrete roadway at the gate entrance. A Pyper 2013.

SOURCES - Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXse4

A History of RAF Aberporth

OS 1963 SN24NW 1:10560



Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXse4



PRN - 31428

NAME - NO 70 HENLLAN BRIDGE CAMP

TYPE - Prisoner of War Camp

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Building **CONDITION** - Not Known/ DAMAGED

NGR - SN35704020 **COMMUNITY** - Llandyfriog

HER DESCRIPTION -

A prisoner of war camp, No 70, listed as a German working camp (Thomas, 2003). A hut survives which was converted by Italian PoWs into a chapel PRN 57791. Modern aerial photography (Next Perspectives 2009) suggests that the layout and a number of huts and tracks survive. A Pyper 2014.

The Henllan Bridge Farm Prisoner of War Camp in Henllan was built between 1940 and 1941 to house prisoners of war, it held Italian prisoners from 1943 - 1946 and later German prisoners from 1946 - 1947. The camp was of a standard design and consisted of around 35 huts to house the prisoners, a theatre, kitchen, hospital, bathing facilities and other huts and areas with various purposes. In May 1943 1200 Italian prisoners of war, mostly captured in Libya and Tunisia, were marched from the local train station through Henllan to the camp, to begin their imprisonment. Many of the prisoners were allowed to work on local farms in Northern Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion where they contributed greatly to the local economy and life. One of the huts within the camp was renovated by the prisoners into a Catholic Church. A 21 year old prisoner called Mario Ferlito was given responsibility for painting the inside of the church. He painted a fresco depicting the Last Supper on the wall behind the altar and also painted frescos on the walls and roof beams. No paint was available so the prisoners

made their own from natural dyes and fish oil from tinned sardines. The altar and other decorations were made using pieces of wood recycled from Red Cross parcels and food tins such as Bully Beef tins to make the candlesticks. The effect was stunning and the church served the prisoners until their departure later in the war. The Church was named "The Church of the Sacred Heart". The Italian prisoners were re-classed as collaborators after the surrender of Italy and around 700 left in mid-1946 to be repatriated to Italy, others however chose to stay in the local area and many even married and settled down in Wales. The Italian prisoners were replaced by German Prisoners until around 1947 when the camp's life as a POW camp came to an end. The designer and painter of the church Mario Ferlito made a return journey to the church in 1977, at the bequest of local school children, to see how his work had survived, he has however, since died in Italy. The Prisoner of War camp and the Church of the Sacred Heart has become a place of pilgrimage for many who were held as Prisoners of War, their families and of course for scores of tourists. The camp has been the subject of many TV programmes and has been mentioned in countless others, such as the BBCs "Hidden Wales". It is also the subject of a book "Y Llynyn Arian" by Jon Meirion Jones, published in 2007. The camp is important as it is the only surviving example of a POW decorated church on the British mainland, although another Italian POW Church called the "The Church of the Barriers" may be found on the Orkney Isles in Scotland. For further details including photos and prisoners memories please see: bbc.co.uk Article written by Carmarthenshire Tourism Officer Rhys D. Anthony.

SOURCES - 2011 Wartime prisoners who helped feed home front

Thomas, RJC 2003 Twentieth Century Military Recording Project: Prisoner of War Camps (1939-1948)

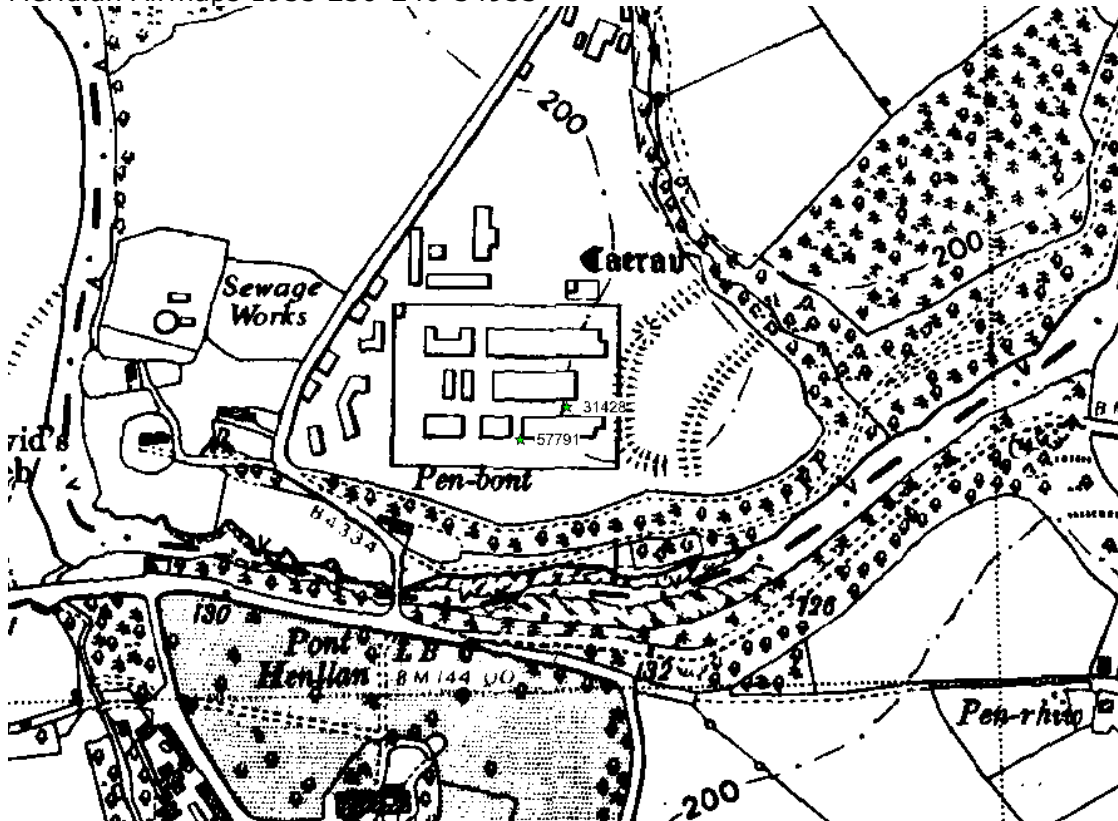
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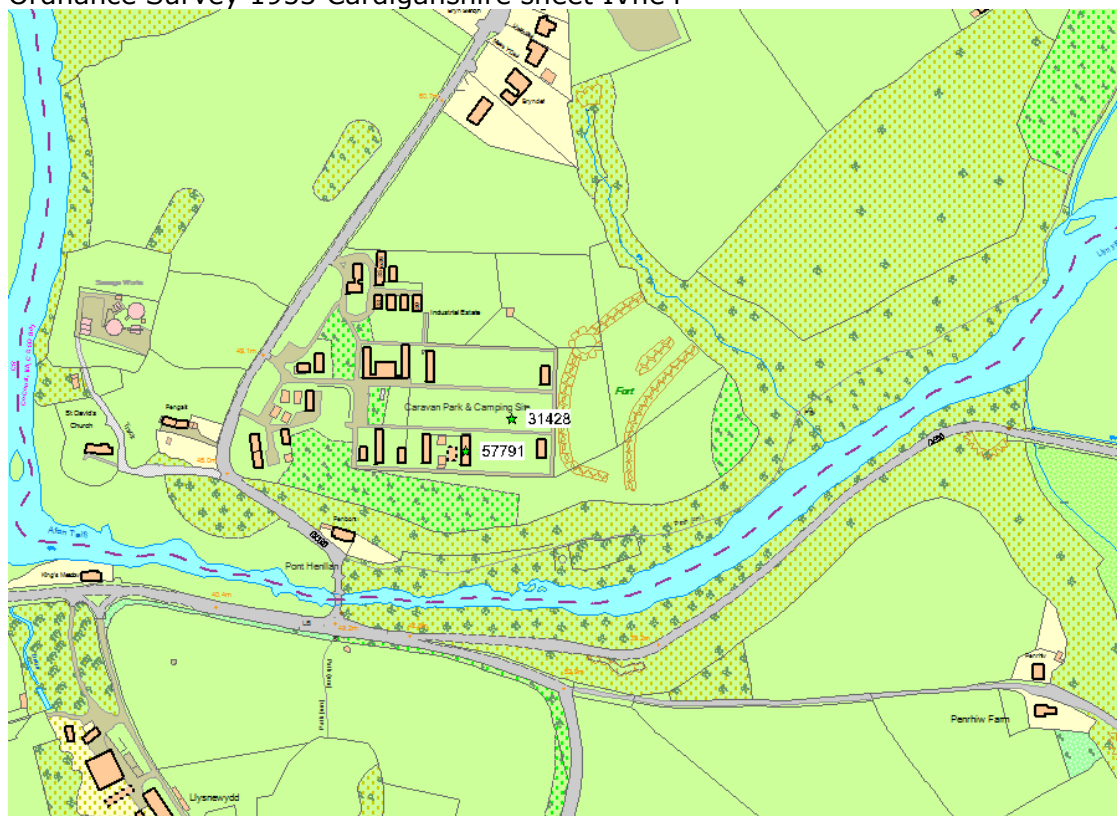
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Mary Parry Places of Worship in Wales; Henllan Prisoners of War Church

Meridian Airmaps 1955 230-240-34953



Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet IVne4



PRN - 31913

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 6 NEW QUAY HEAD

TYPE - Coastguard Station/ OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - Post-Medieval/ MODERN

EVIDENCE - Building **CONDITION** - Restored/ NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN37686000 **COMMUNITY** - Llanllwchaiarn

HER DESCRIPTION -

Site of Observation Post No 6 was established in 1939. The observation post was established to support work on weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). In correspondence dated August 1951 a 50ft pole was required to be set up '90yards' away as part of a new Missile Tracking System (MTS) which would record an accurate trajectory of the missile, partly this was a safety system - if the missile showed signs of deviating from its expected flight path it could be broken up by an internal explosive charge denoted from the ground, but it also provided a method of recording accurate trajectories in all weathers. The MTS system consisted of a radio oscillator within the missile and two ground receiver stations.

Aerial photographs from 2009 show the structure survives. A Pyper based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth

Next Perspectives 2009 Digital aerial photo mapping

Williams,G 1996 Cardigan Bay Survey PRN 30751 Categories A, B & C

Williams,G 1996 Cardigan Bay Survey



PRN - 57791

NAME - FORMER P.O.W. CHAPEL AT HENLLAN CARAVAN PARK

TYPE - Chapel

PERIOD - Post-Medieval

EVIDENCE - Building **CONDITION** - Not Known

NGR - SN3566740177 **COMMUNITY** - Llandyfriog

HER DESCRIPTION -

Built c1940, initially as a dormitory and converted shortly afterwards to a chapel for Italian prisoners of war. Formally dedicated in 1944. The site was a P.O.W. camp, set up c1940. The conversion of the building was carried out by the Italian prisoners, utilising basic materials, such as wood from cases, cement bags, tins and roofing felt. Paint was made by extracting natural dyes. The artist chiefly responsible for the painted schemes was Mario Felito. Reason Listed at II* as an unique and unusually elaborate example of a P.O.W. Chapel in Wales.

SOURCES - ENRIGHT, C 2015 HENLLAN WASTE WATER TREATMENT WORKS, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Photographs of the Italian Prisoner of War chapel at Henllan: ADX/870/7/3

PRN - 94906

NAME - MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS

TYPE - ROCKET TEST FACILITY

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Documentary Evidence **CONDITION** - Not Known

NGR - SN61019395 **COMMUNITY** - Borth

HER DESCRIPTION -

Towards the end of the Second World War a range was established at Ynyslas for the testing of anti-aircraft missiles. Two rocket launching tracks were built in the sand dunes at the mouth of the Dyfi estuary with associated observation posts and structures. Documents in the National Archives refer to the Experimental Establishment Ynyslas being permanently moved from 17th May 1946 to the Anti-Aircraft Practice Camp at Aberporth (PRN 109288).

Fieldwork by the RCAHMW have established that two BCF (British Concrete Foundation) huts and other structures survive as either buried archaeology or ruinous structures. A Pyper based on RCAHMW descriptions.

SOURCES -

Groom, D. & Parry, M. 2012 *Ynyslas Nature Reserve: Aberdyfi Estuary. Non Intrusive Survey*

RCAHMW (Driver, T) 2007 Coflein

Poucher, P. 2009 Wetland Margins Survey: Cors Fochno

1945 SECRET Appendix to SD 559 List of Firing Ranges of which the location and danger height are shown on SD 559, Edition of May, 1945

Ministry of Aviation or successors 1946 Experimental Ranges Ynyslas

RAF 1946 106G/UK1450

1948, 541 RAF 116



1948, 541 RAF 116



PRN - 94920

NAME - MOEL YNYS

TYPE - Dwelling/ Farmstead

PERIOD - Post-Medieval

EVIDENCE - Building **CONDITION** - Intact

NGR - SN60759294 **COMMUNITY** - Borth

HER DESCRIPTION -

A dwelling and possible farmstead. Marked on Lewis's map of 1790 as two buildings with adjoining enclosures. The arrangement of the two buildings still appears on current map sources. (PP 06/04/09)

Local information gained by the RCAHMW has it that this house was requisitioned for accommodation when the rocket testing range, Ministry of Supply Experimental Establishment Anti-Aircraft Ynyslas, was established at the end of the Second World War. (NPRN 506723).

SOURCES - Ordnance Survey (Giles, J C & Dawson, R) 1834 Original Surveyors Drawings, 2 inches to 1 mile Map

Mickleburgh, C c1824 Manor of Geneglyn, Map A, Rivers, Drains and Embankments Map

Lewis, T 1790 Map of Cors Fochno, and the several islands situate therein Map

Poucher, P. 2009 Wetland Margins Survey: Cors Fochno

PRN - 102533

NAME - ABERAERON CAMP AND AIRSTRIP

TYPE - Military Camp

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Complex **CONDITION** - Not Known

NGR - SN44476182 **COMMUNITY** - Llangunnor

HER DESCRIPTION -

A Light Anti-Aircraft School was established on the cliffs southwest of Aberaeron, probably in 1940. It included a camp of temporary buildings, accommodation, schoolrooms, ablutions, stores and a number of circular gun hards facing out to sea. The local farms were evacuated and the house of Cilfforch was the Commanding Officers headquarters (PRN 109286). An airstrip was established on the east side of the A487, used for liaison aircraft. It was used by the RAF, Army, Royal Marines and later in the war by the United States Army. Summary description based on Jones, 2007.

A 1942 aerial photograph shows an extensive camp at that time, with at least 120 huts arranged, often in groups of five, across the fields from the coast road across to the headland. It appears that three gun hards were constructed at the cliff top. The 1946 RAF aerial photograph shows the layout of the camp clearly connected by trackways, and the number of gun hards had increased to 12 aligned along the coastal strip.

Aerial photographs dated 2009 suggest that trackways, concrete hardstandings and some structures survive to the western extent of the camp, but other fields where structures once stood have been returned to pasture. A Pyper 2016.

SOURCES - Jones, Ivor 2007 Airfields and Landing Grounds of Wales: West

Pyper, A 2012 Twentieth century military sites: Airfields

Next Perspectives 2009 Digital aerial photo mapping

Ordnance Survey pub 1953 Cardiganshire XVIII.NE & SE

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department 1942 Aberayron Light Anti-Aircraft Artillery Range in the County of Cardiganshire. Bye-laws.

1945 SECRET Appendix to SD 559 List of Firing Ranges of which the location and danger height are shown on SD 559, Edition of May, 1945

Ordnance Survey Aerial Photograph 1972

Medmenham Aerial Photographic Collection 1942

RAF 106G/UK 1631, 8 July 46 2024

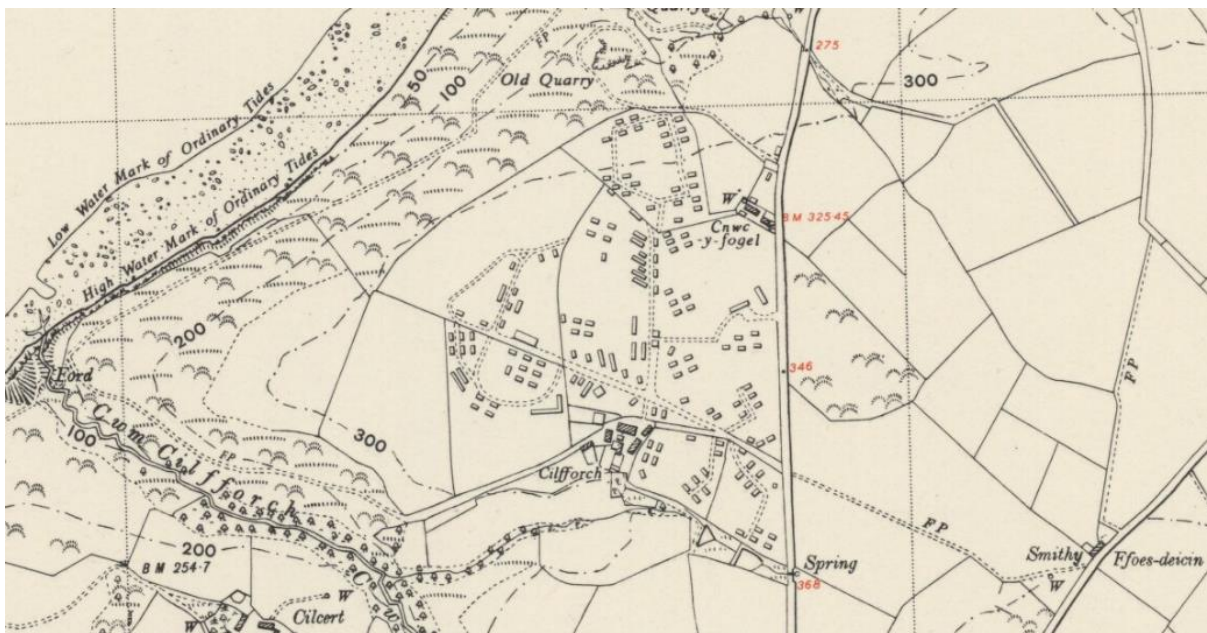
RAF 540/383 0113, 24 July 1950



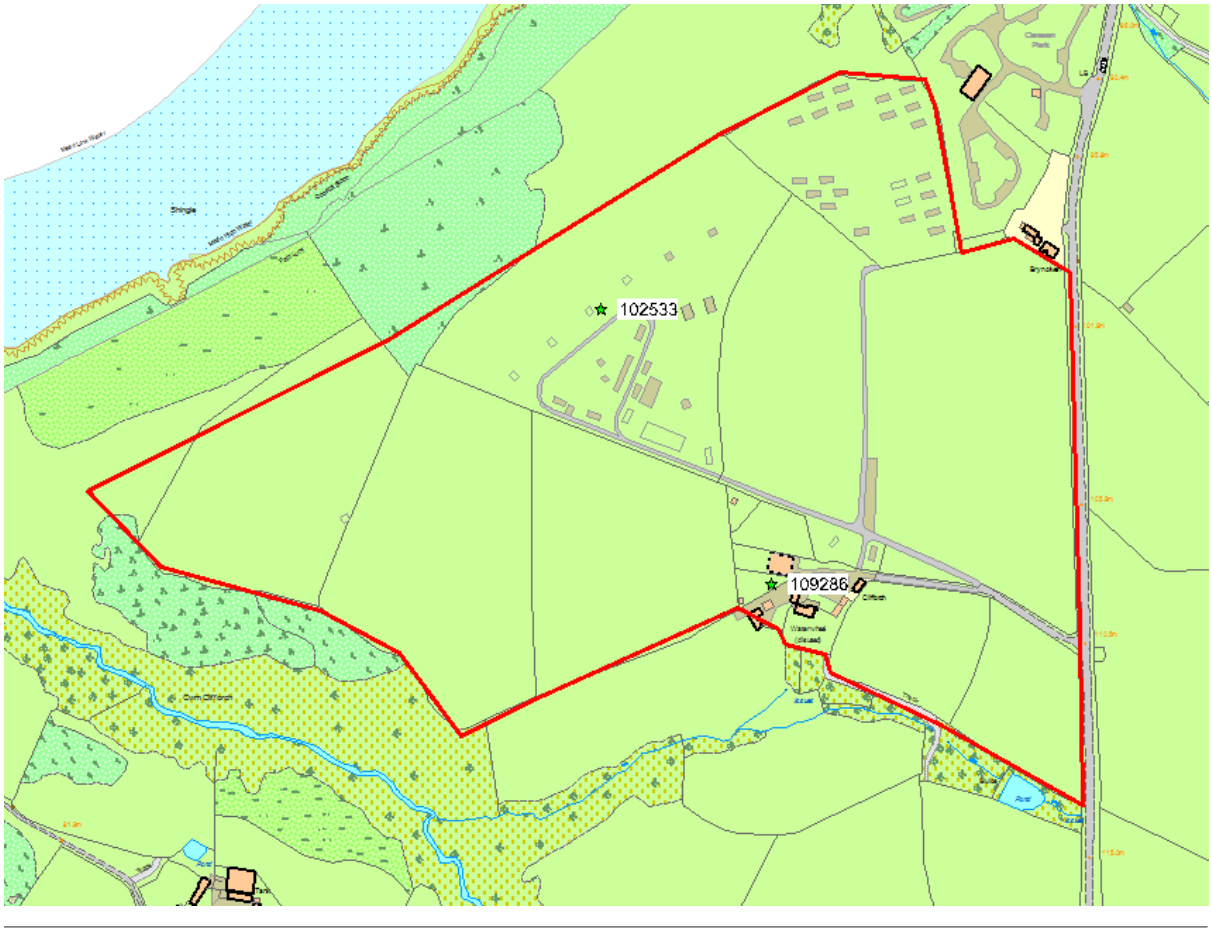
RAF 106G/UK 1631 8 July 46 2024



RAF 24 July 1950, 540/383 0113



Ordnance Survey Six-inch Cardiganshire XVIII.NE & SE (includes: Aberaeron; Henfynyw; Llannarth.) Revised: 1948, Published: 1953



PRN - 105926

NAME - RAF ABERPORTH/BLAENANNERCH

TYPE - Military Camp

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Complex **CONDITION** - Near Destroyed

NGR - SN2437048740 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

Aerial photographs from 1942 show a military camp in this location providing dispersed accommodation for personnel at RAF Aberporth (PRN 30594). At least six huts with other subsidiary buildings are dispersed evenly around the field. The OS third edition (published 1953) identifies the site as 'Polish Resettlement Camp', this was established in 1946 until 1948 after the airfield's closure. See PRN 30595.

When visited in 2013 there were no upstanding remains, but evidence of a concrete roadway at the field entrance. A Pyper 2013.

SOURCES - RAF 1942 Medmenham collection: M2324(1) 107 1942

Pyper, A 2013 Twentieth century military sites: Airfields - dispersed sites and defences
Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXse4

PRN - 105930

NAME - OBSERVATION POST

TYPE - Military Building/ OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Extant Building **CONDITION** - Near Intact

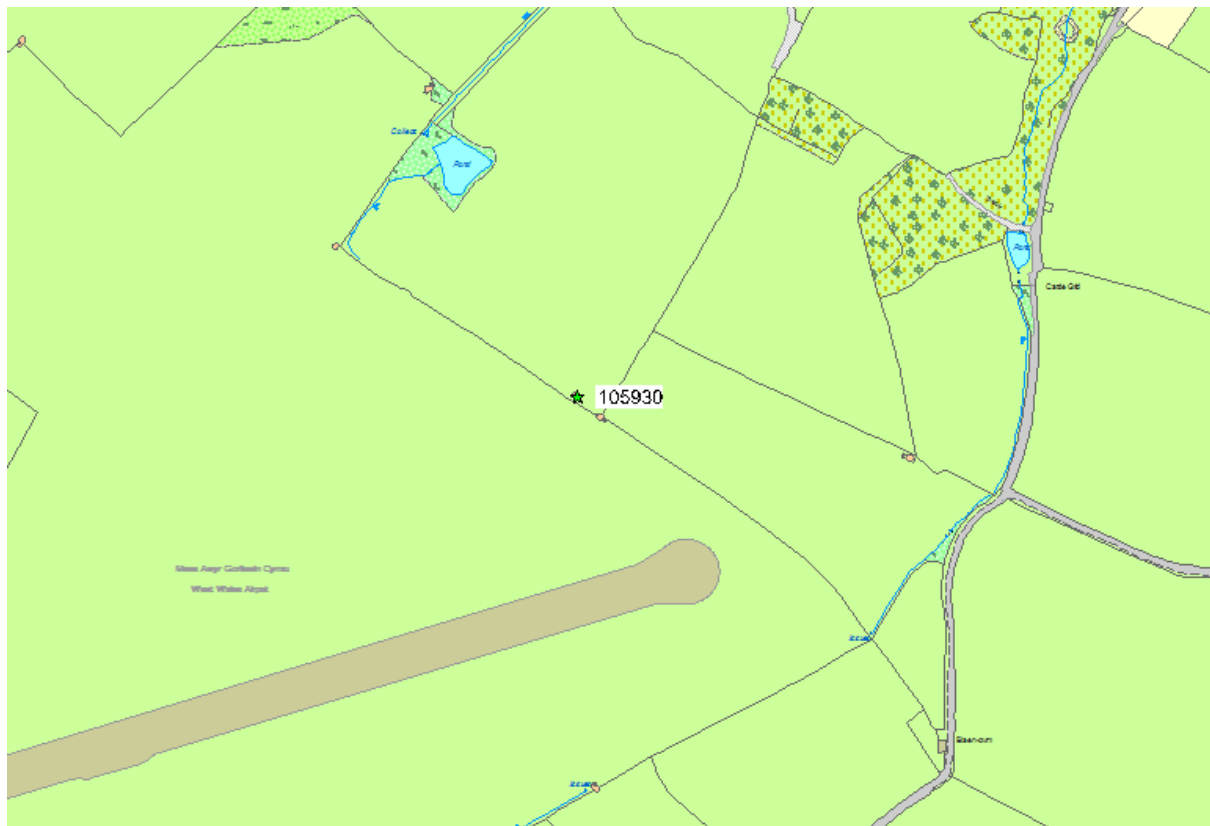
NGR - SN2536549645 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

An observation post built to observe and track missiles tested on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A small building c 3m square, doorway in the southeast wall. Metal framed, six pane window high set and longitudinal in the northwest wall. Brick built, flat concrete roof with overhang all round. Blue painted four panelled door, broken with one panel missing. A Pyper 2013.

SOURCES - Pyper, A 2013 Twentieth century military sites: Airfields - dispersed sites and defences

1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



Observation post PRN 105930 visited in 2013.

PRN - 105982

NAME - HIGHMEAD

TYPE - Military Camp

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Documentary Evidence **CONDITION** - Not Known

NGR - SN50274319 **COMMUNITY** - LLANYBYDDER

HER DESCRIPTION -

Highmead House and associated park was used as a camp by the American Army during the Second World War. Records of United States Army Units from Station Lists record various units based there from November 1943, including 112 Infantry Regiment, 372 Engineer General Service Regiment, 38 Infantry Regiment, until June 1944. Aerial photographs from 1946 show an area to the northeast of the mansion house with a number of huts arranged around a trackway, within the centre of the track are a number (over 50) of square concrete tent bases in three paired rows. To the north are the faded imprints of circular bell tents?

Aerial photography from 2009 shows that although no huts appear to survive there are the traces of concrete hut bases. A Pyper based on Phil Grinton Station Lists and aerial photographs. 2016.

SOURCES - RAF 1946 106g uk 1471

Next Perspectives 2009 Digital aerial photo mapping

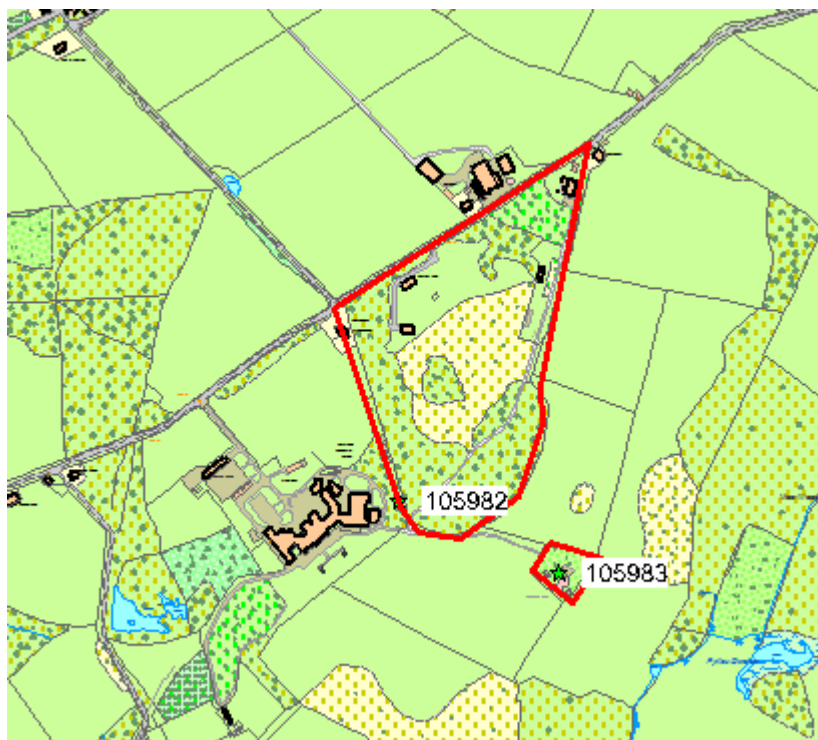
Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 30 June 1944.

Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 30 April 1944.

Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 31 May 1944.



RAF 1946 106g uk 1471



PRN - 105983

NAME - HIGHMEAD

TYPE - Sewage Works

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - Documentary Evidence

CONDITION - Unknown

NGR - SN50464310 **COMMUNITY** - Llanwenog

HER DESCRIPTION -

A sewage works identified from a 1946 aerial photograph of Highmead house. Possibly associated with the establishment of a US army base at Highmead house and the hutted and tented camp (PRN 105982). A Pyper 2016

SOURCES - RAF 1946 106g uk 1471

PRN - 107896

NAME - ROYAL AIRCRAFT ESTABLISHMENT ABERPORTH; PROJECTILE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT; MOD ABERPORTH

TYPE - WEAPONS TESTING SITE

PERIOD - SECOND WORLD WAR

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN24425200 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

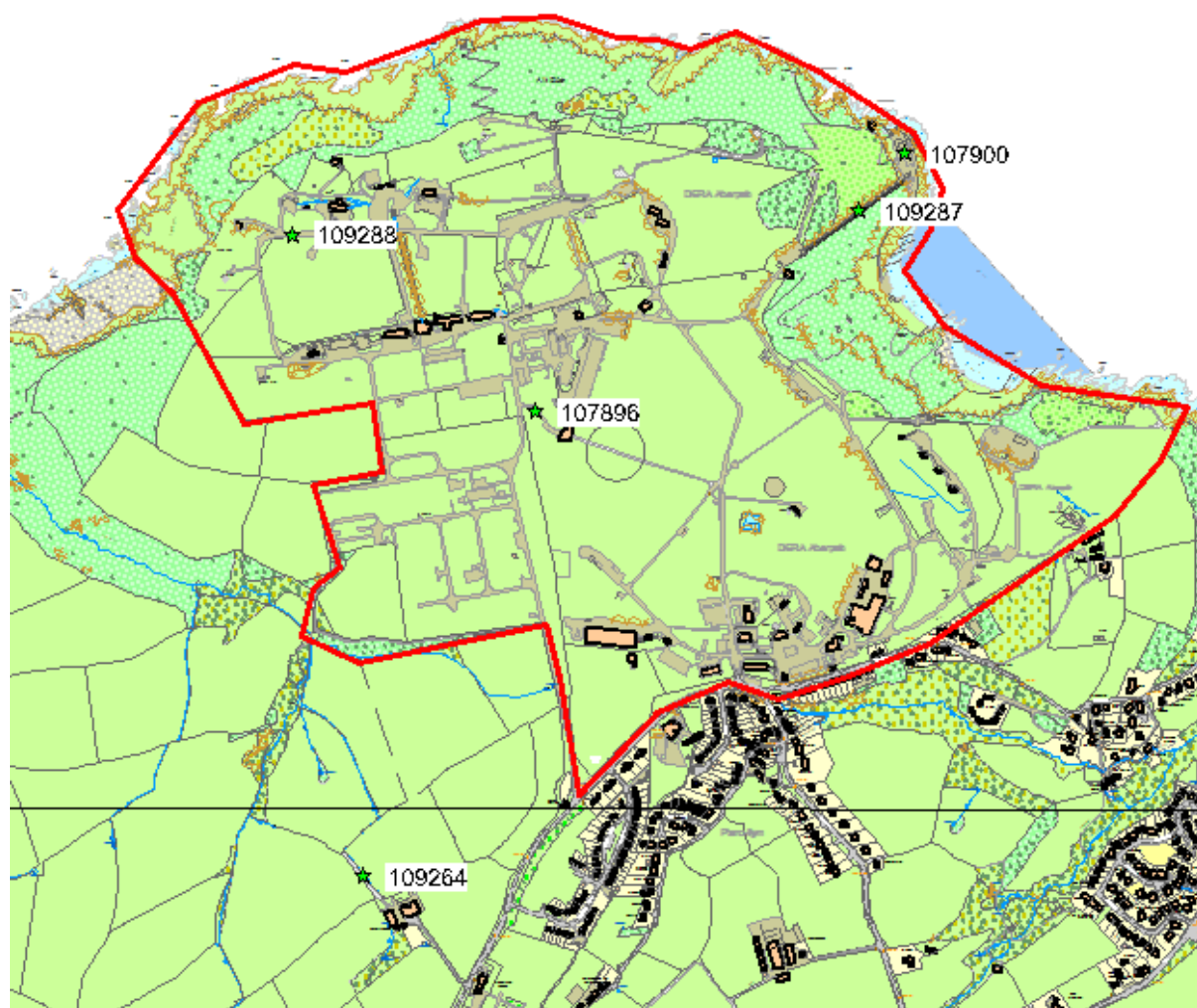
The headland at Aberporth was purchased by the War Department in 1938/9 for use as a Rocket Firing Range and adjacent land was purchased for an Anti-aircraft Practice Camp (PRN 109288). In 1940 the Projectile Development Establishment moved here from Halstead in Kent due to concerns about its vulnerability to enemy attack. In addition to the range itself observation posts were established at various locations along the coast to track the trajectory of missiles. Drogue targets towed by aircraft flown from both Aberporth and Llanbedr airfields were used in these early years. 1945 saw the introduction of liquid fuelled missiles and one of these early guided missiles successfully shot down a pilotless target aircraft for the first time at Aberporth in 1954.

The decades following the war saw new developments and further research and development take place including the building of, in 1951-4, a dedicated site to develop and evaluate the Sea Slug missile from Naval ships (PRN 107900). The range has seen a constant development and change with new structures and features introduced to keep pace with technological developments. In 2016 MOD Aberporth is described as 550 acres of land and in addition 6500 km² of airspace and is largely involved with testing air launched missiles and unmanned aerial systems (UAS). Alice Pyper 2016 based on various sources.

SOURCES - Jones, Ivor 2007 Airfields and Landing Grounds of Wales: West
1945 SECRET Appendix to SD 559 List of Firing Ranges of which the location and danger height are shown on SD 559, Edition of May, 1945
Wales Safeguarding Map 10 January 1952
A History of RAF Aberporth
Qinetiq MOD Aberporth
1957? Skylark launcher
OS 1972 72_237
RAF 1946 106G UK 1424
RAF 1950 541-495



RAF 1950, 541_495 12_4_50



PRN - 107897

NAME - YSBYTY YSTWYTH

TYPE - ARMY CAMP

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN73887000 **COMMUNITY** - Ystrad Meurig

HER DESCRIPTION -

An army camp and airstrip is recorded, established in May 1943, for the US army 696th Armoured Field Artillery Battalion. They included a regiment of tanks and Piper Cub L4 aircraft of the Air Observation Posts which apparently used a grass airstrip to the south of the track. This formed part of an enormous battle school for training in mobile warfare. The unit was evacuated just before D-Day on the 6th June 1944. It's likely that all temporary structures were cleared, though shells are sometimes found. Alice Pyper 2016 based on I Jones p 188-90.

SOURCES - Jones, Ivor 2007 Airfields and Landing Grounds of Wales: West



PRN - 107900

NAME - ABERPORTH RANGE SHIP SIMULATOR FIRING PLATFORM

TYPE - WEAPONS TESTING SITE

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - DAMAGED

NGR - SN25085244 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

A facility to test and evaluate the launching of Sea Slug missiles from Royal Navy ships was built between 1951-4 in the cliffs below the headland at Aberporth. The site consisted of a ship-simulation firing platform, which comprised a 20m square and 13 metre deep basin, which when flooded contained the Claussen Rolling Platform, an ovoid metal floating hull, which would simulate the pitch and roll of a ship at sea and thereby test the launch system under marine conditions. This site is the only terrestrial location for testing. Control equipment was housed in adjacent buildings, and the site was accessed by a purpose built incline railway, and other subterranean rooms, buildings and a magazine were constructed at the site. Sea Slug trials ended in 1968 but the site was used to test Sea Wolf and Sea Dart missiles. Most surface buildings were demolished in 2004, but many below ground structures remain. Alice Pyper based on Cadw Scheduling Description and J. Berry 2011.

SOURCES - Cadw Scheduling Description
Jon Berry 2011 Desperately Seeking Sea Slug

PRN - 107901

NAME - CILGWYN

TYPE - ARMY CAMP

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN313411 **COMMUNITY** - Llandyfriog

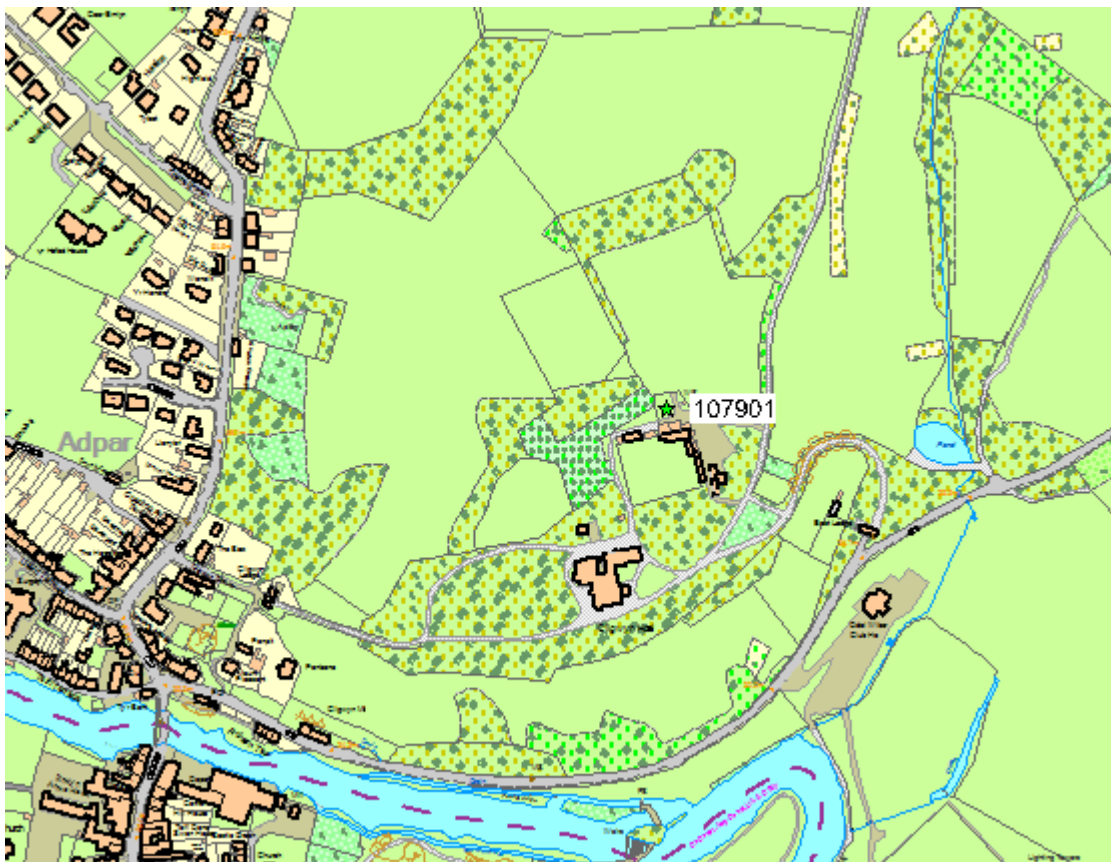
HER DESCRIPTION -

Records show that Cilgwyn was a base for the US army units, (50 Ordnance Ammunition Company, Detachment A and the 372 Engineer General Service Regiment, 1 Battalion, Company C) from December 1943 to April 1944. Further details are unknown at present, though Cilgwyn is named in the US army station lists of this period and it is suggested that the mansion and parkland may have been requisitioned. A Pyper based on Lt Col (retired) Phil Grinton Station Lists. 2016.

SOURCES - Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 30 April 1944.

Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 31 March 1944.

Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 31 December 1943.



PRN - 107902

NAME - ST DOGMAELS

TYPE - ARMY CAMP

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN160467 **COMMUNITY** - St Dogmaels

HER DESCRIPTION -

From April to June 1944, St Dogmaels was the base for the US army unit, 111 Ordnance Medium Maintenance Company. Sources identify that they were based at Albro Castle (PRN 35735). A Pyper based on Station Lists from Lt Col Phil Grinton (retired).

SOURCES - Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 30 April 1944.

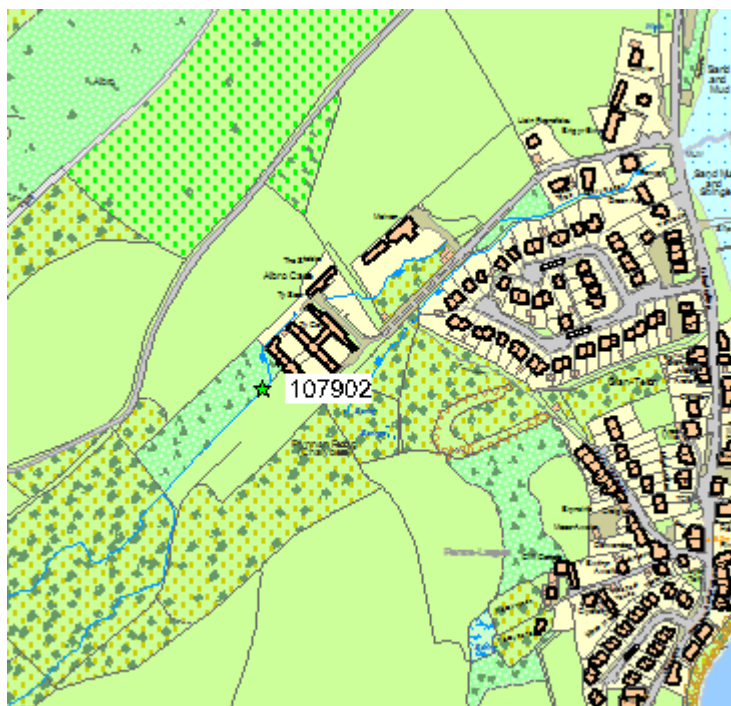
Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 31 May 1944.

Lt Col Philip C Grinton (US Army, Retired) US Army/Army Air Force: Units from UK Station List as of 30 June 1944.

Andrea Sutcliffe WWII Tracings, Sharing the Stories of the Men of the 111th Ordnance Company (MM)



<https://wwitracings.files.wordpress.com/2014/10/gene-karl-photos-albro-outside-brick-low-buildings.jpg>



PRN - 109260

NAME -

TYPE - FIRING RANGE

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN55155115 **COMMUNITY** - Llanwnnen

HER DESCRIPTION -

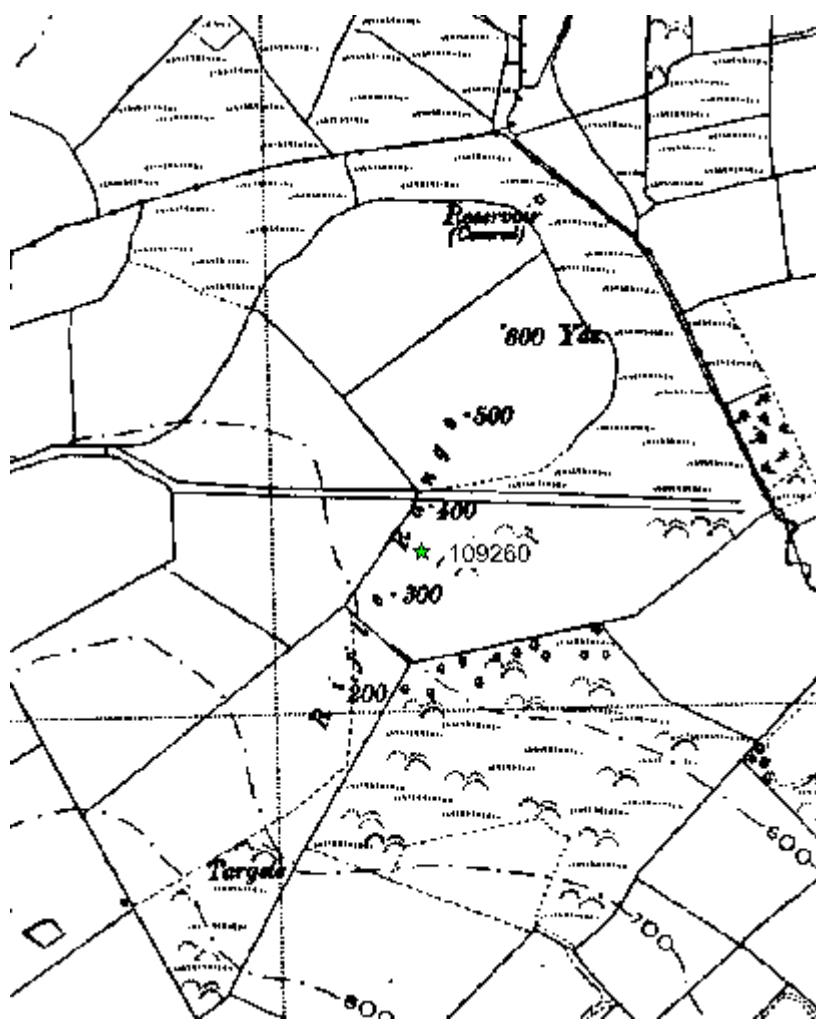
A rifle range is first identified on the second edition OS map of 1905, and is still recorded on the 4th edition (1953). Target position and 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600 yard firing positions are recorded in a NE - SE direction. A Pyper 2016 based on OS mapping.

It is described as constructed in 1901, after the Boer War and on the formation of the Pembrokeshire Imperial Yeomanry, which had a squadron at Lampeter. Disused at the outbreak of the Second World War it was brought back in order and in use every week by the Home Guard, and also used by other troops and American servicemen at Highmead.

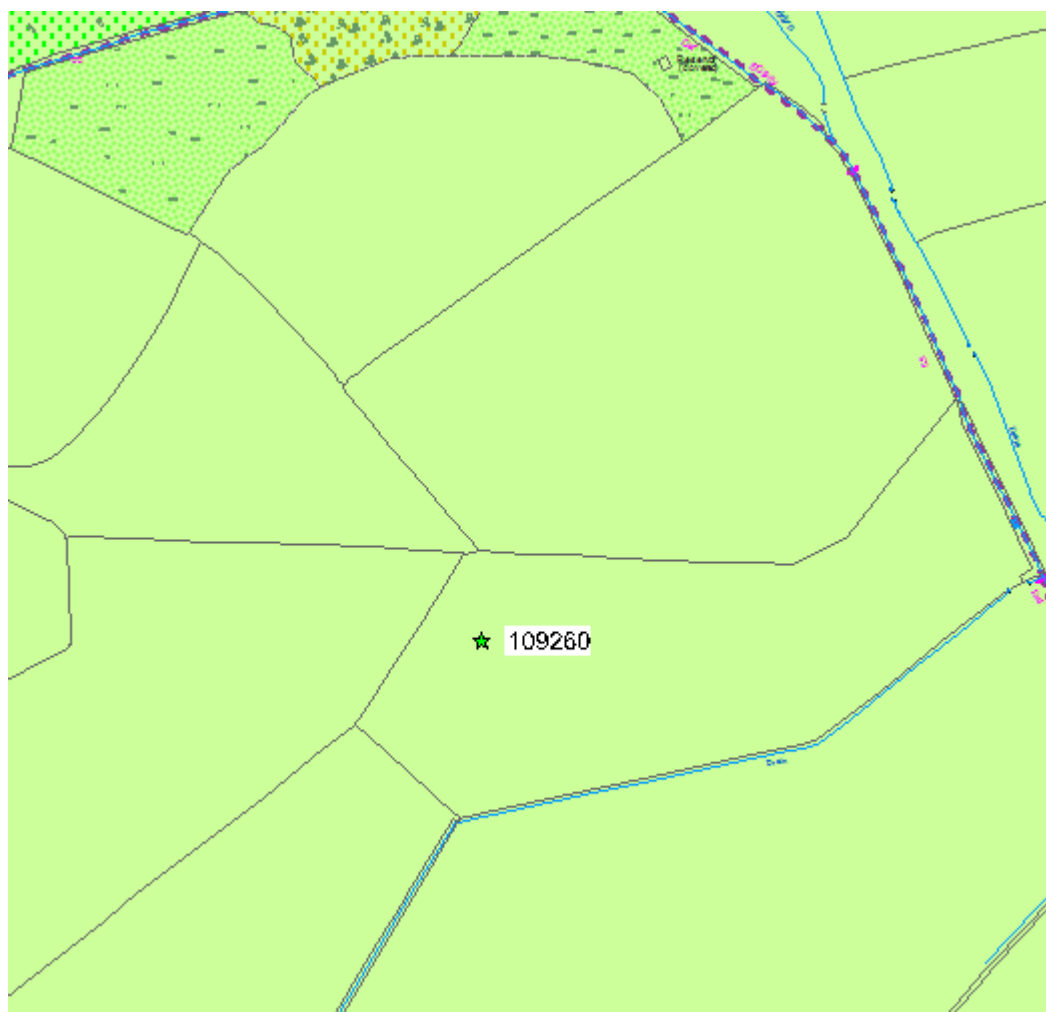
SOURCES - Ordnance Survey 1905 Cardiganshire 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXIII.NE 1:10560

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E., 1945 3rd Cards. Battalion Home Guard



Ordnance Survey 1953 Cardiganshire sheet XXXIII.NE 1:10560



PRN - 109261

NAME - BRYNHOFNANT BALLOON SITE

TYPE - MILITARY INSTALLATION

PERIOD - MODERN

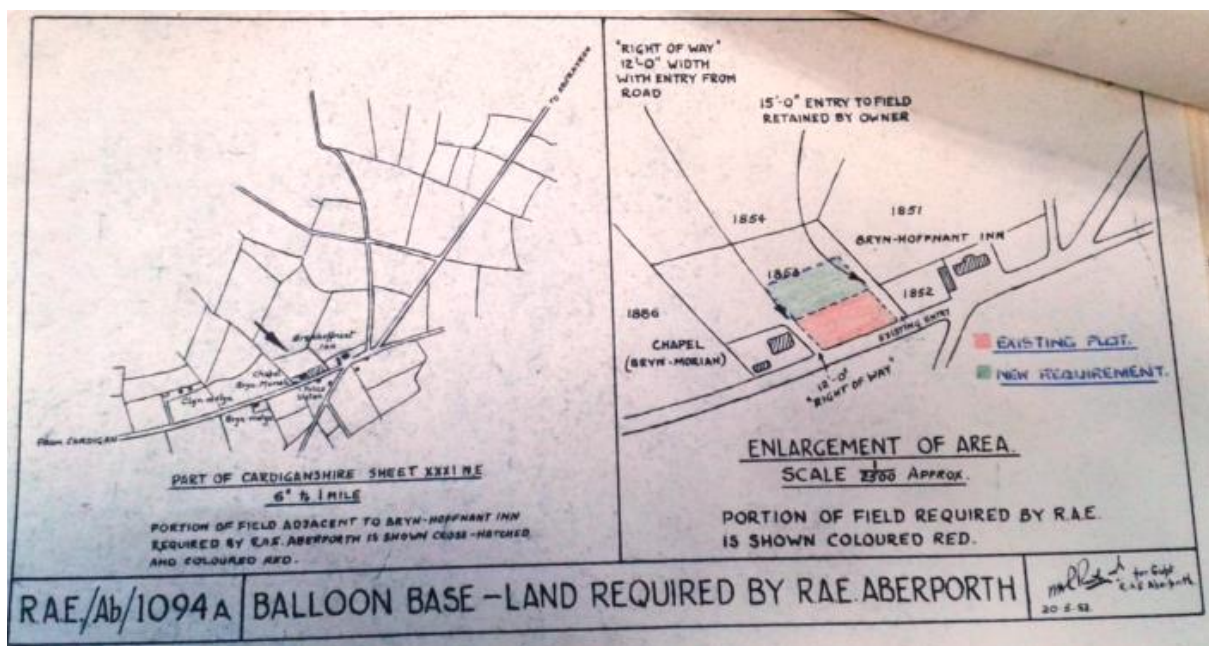
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN33065131 **COMMUNITY** - Penbryn

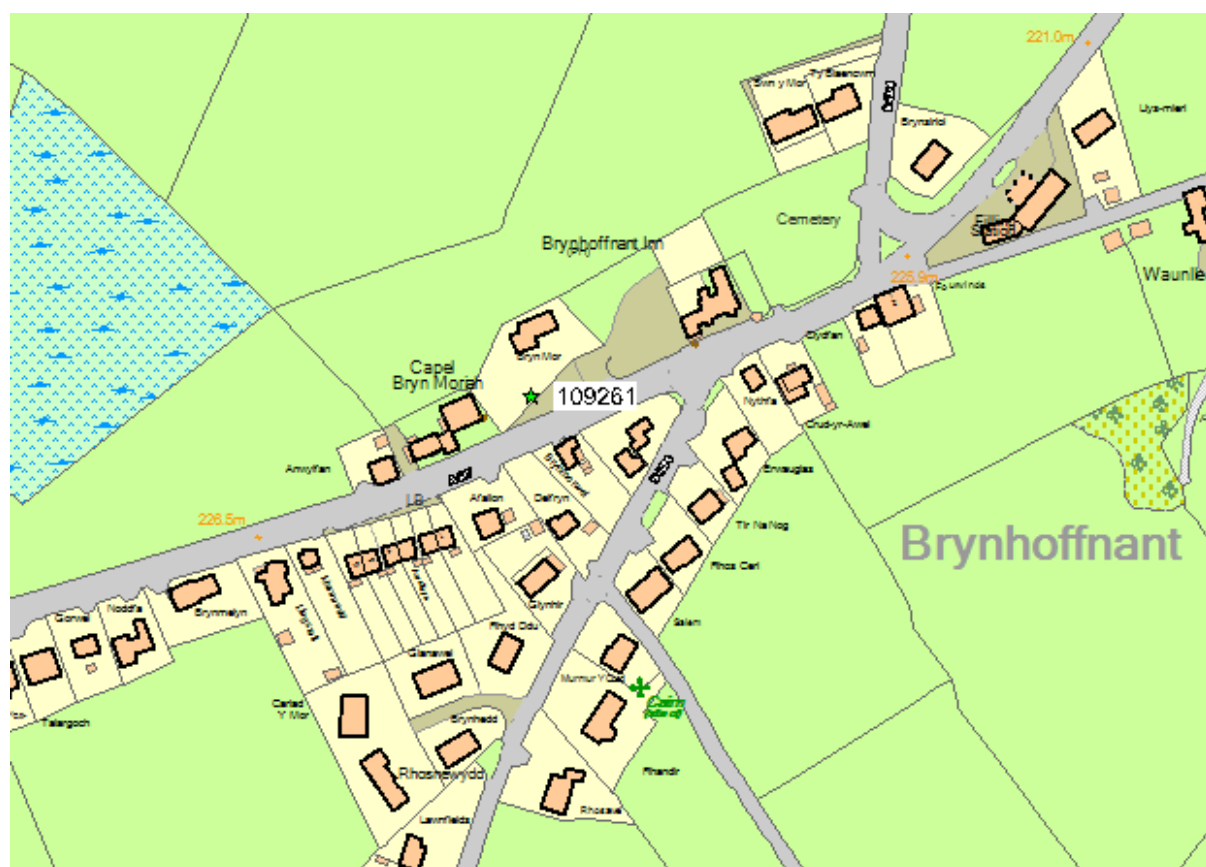
HER DESCRIPTION -

Balloon base established on land at Brynhoffnant in 1952. It was used to launch a target balloon in support of the work on weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A letter dated 14th December 1953 calls for more land to be rented at Brynhoffnant in order to safely fly the larger balloons required. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



RAE Aberporth Acc1250



PRN - 109262

NAME - DOPPLER STATION NEAR PENCADER

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

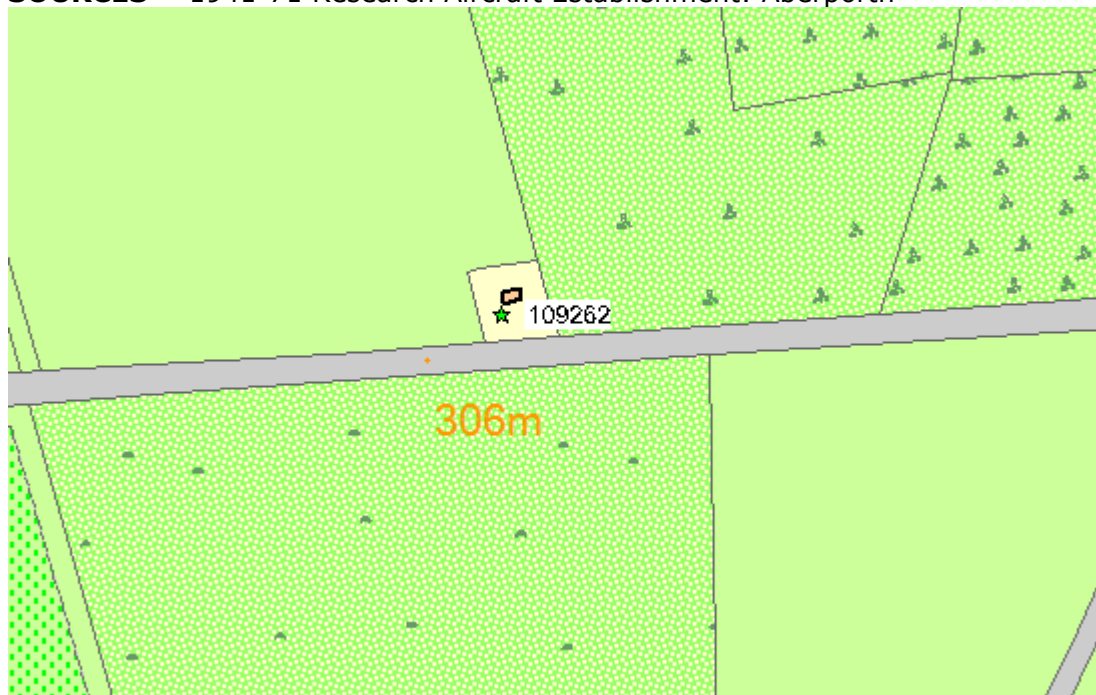
EVIDENCE - **CONDITION** -

NGR - SN40533437 **COMMUNITY** - Llangeler

HER DESCRIPTION -

Site for a doppler station near Pencader. It was associated with the work on weapons trials at Aberporth range (PRN 107896). Doppler radar was used to measure velocity of objects. A map dated 5th February 1953 shows the small parcel of land proposed for the site. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109263

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 13 MAES Y FELIN

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

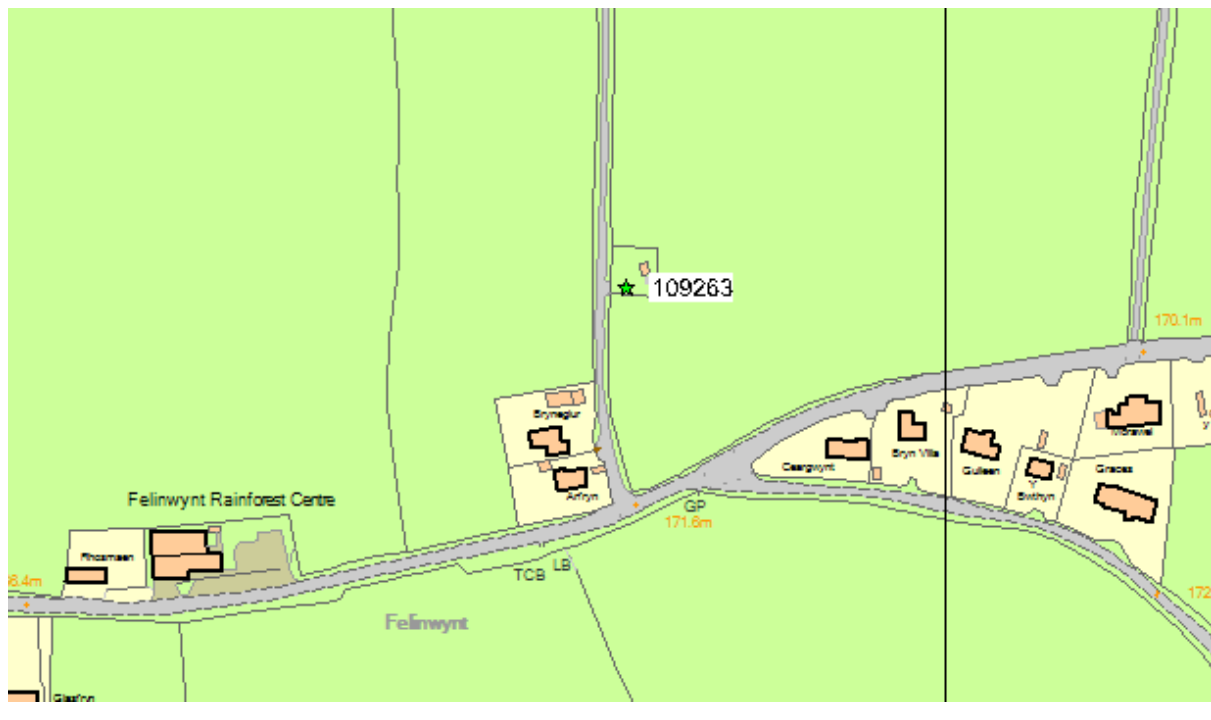
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN22335052 **COMMUNITY** - Y Ferwig

HER DESCRIPTION -

A map dated 30.11.50 shows this as the location of an Observation post associated with the weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper 2016, based on documents in the Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109264

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 11 PENAR NEWYDD

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

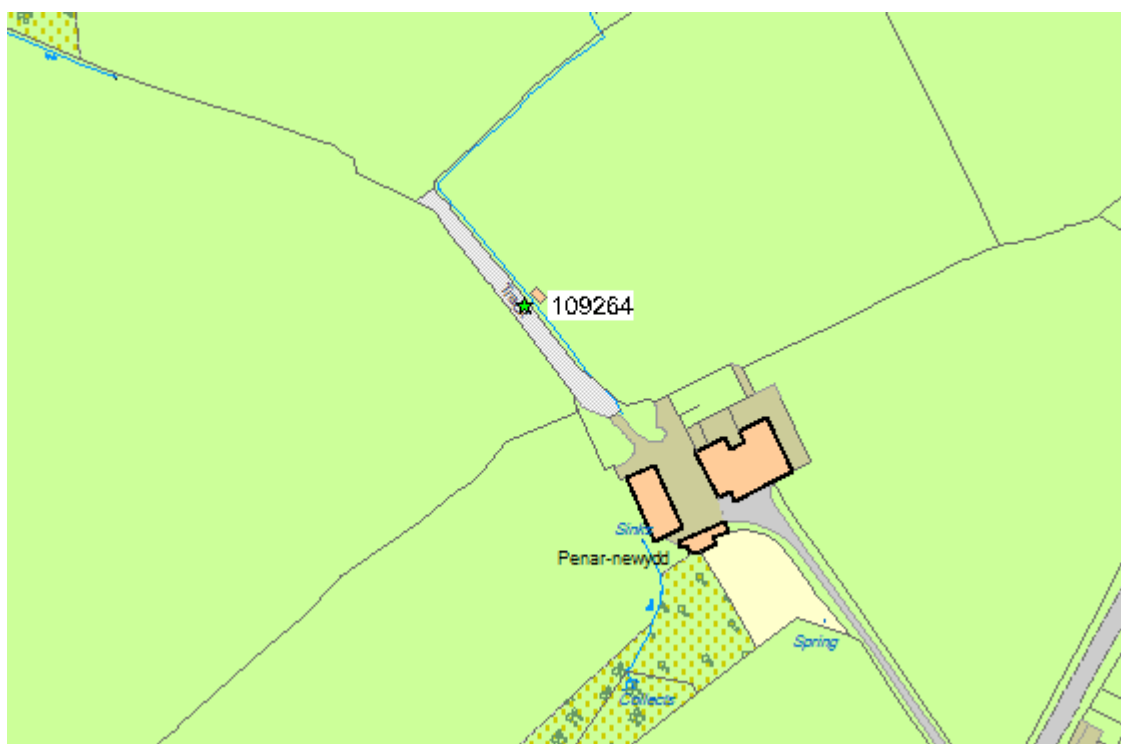
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN24105119 **COMMUNITY** - Y Ferwig

HER DESCRIPTION -

A map dated 28.6.48 shows this as the location of an Observation post associated with the weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A lease also exists between the landowner and the Ministry of Supply dated 17th November 1951. It was surplus to requirements and disposed of in 1957. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in the Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109265

NAME - OBSERVATION POST BLAEN FFORDD

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

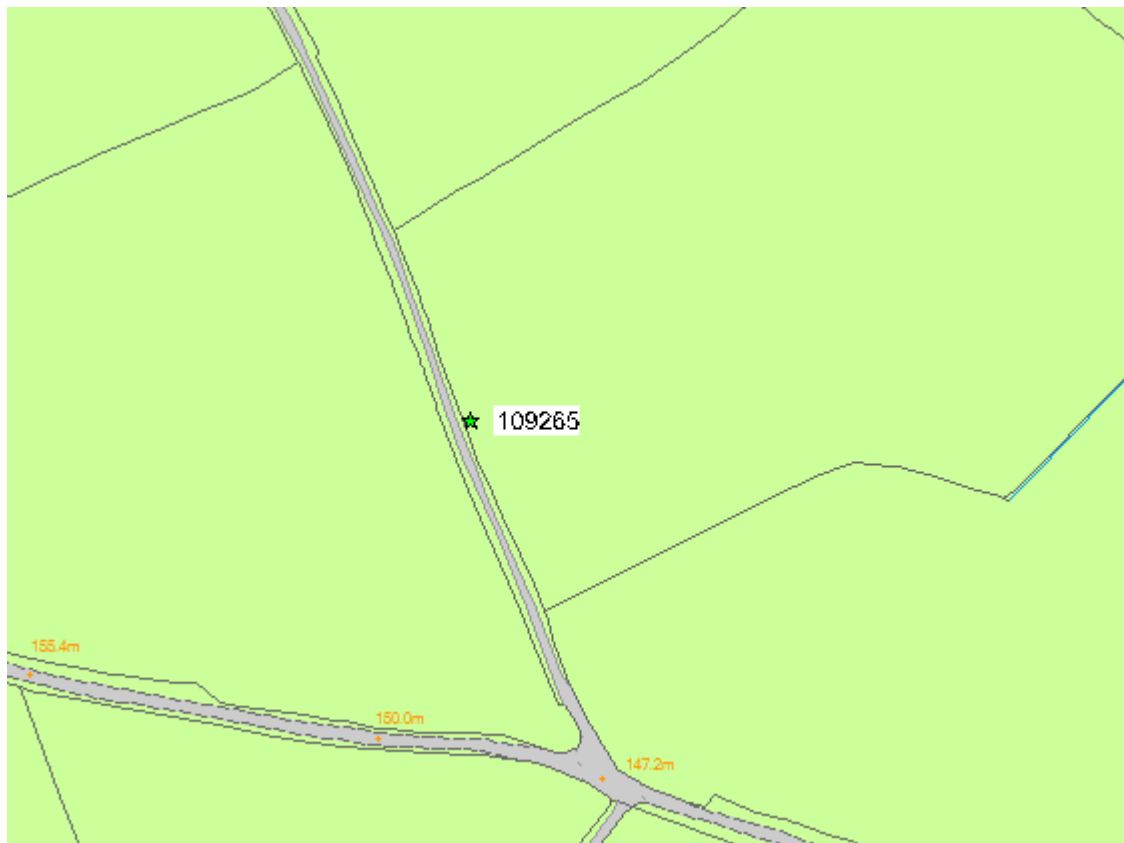
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN23415065 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

A map dated 11.8.49 shows this as the location of a theodolite observation post associated with the weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper 2016, based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109266

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 15 QUARRY

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

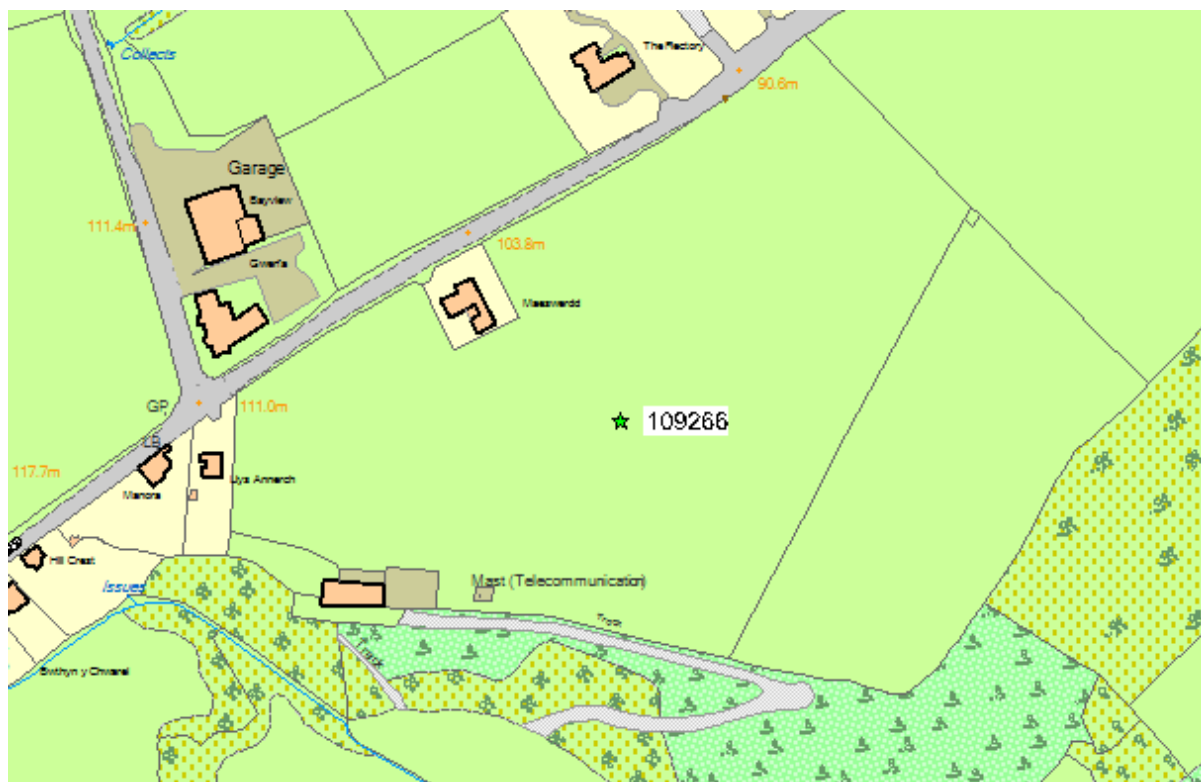
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN2525850750 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

Documents dated 11.8.49 shows this as the location of a theodolite observation post associated with the weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109267

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 12 DOLMANOL

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

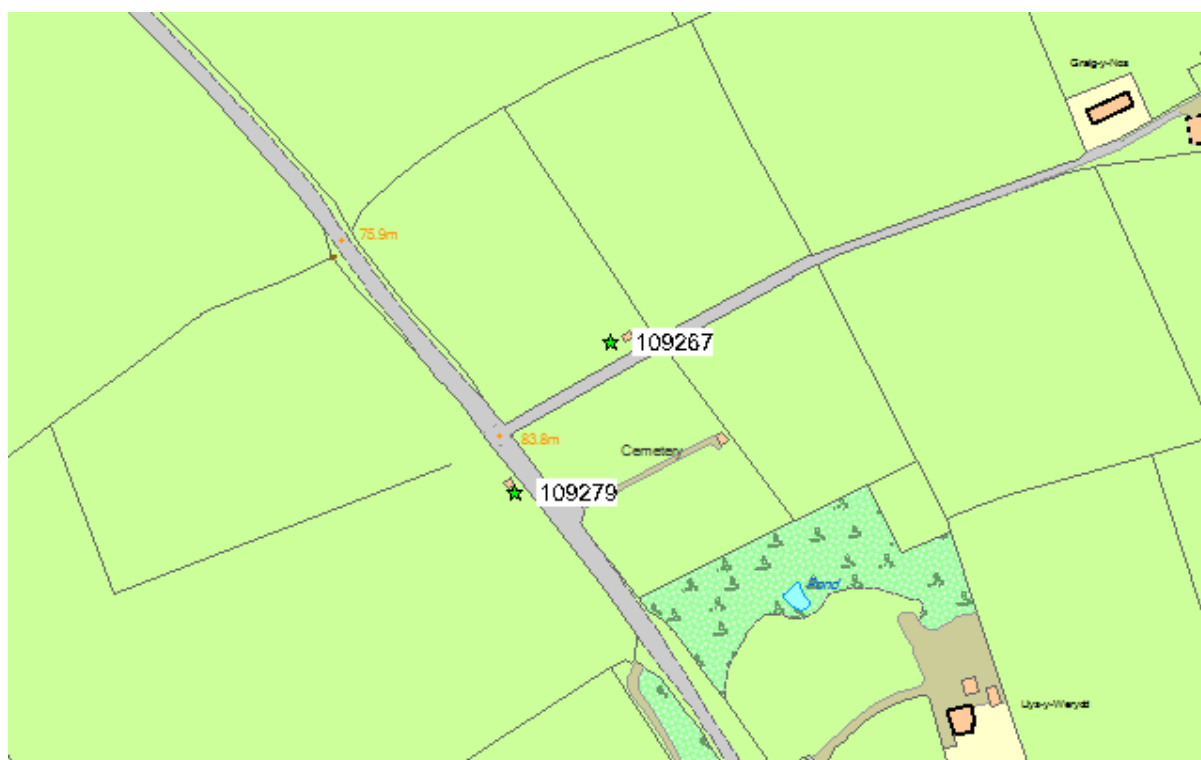
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN26615070 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

Documents dated 11.8.49 shows this as the location of a theodolite observation post associated with the weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). Site was disposed of in 1957. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109268

NAME - OBSERVATION POST

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

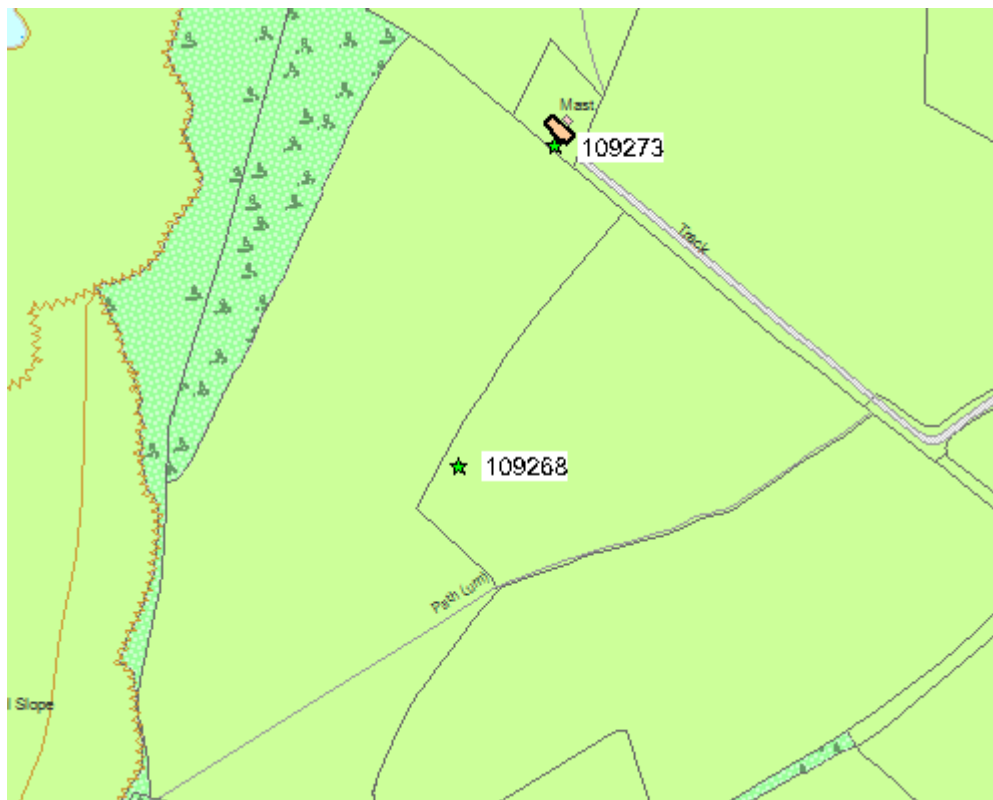
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN29875296 **COMMUNITY** - Penbryn

HER DESCRIPTION -

A map (undated but c1950) shows the location of proposed new observation post associated with the weapons trials on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896) an existing observation post (no 2) is located to the north (PRN 109273) . A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109269

NAME - PROJECTILE DEVELOPMENT ESTABLISHMENT, CILWENDEG PARK

TYPE - MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

PERIOD - MODERN

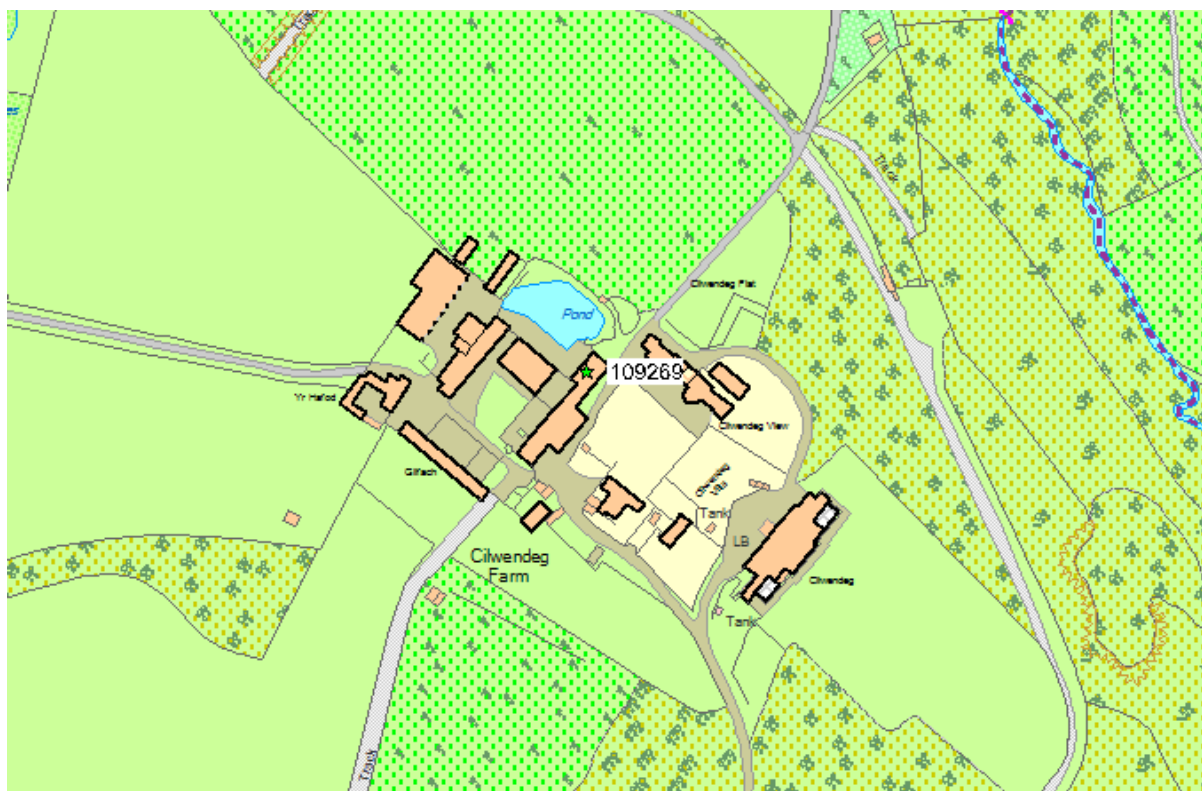
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN22263878 **COMMUNITY** - Boncath

HER DESCRIPTION -

Cilwendeg Mansion was used as headquarters and staff accommodation from 1940 with the relocation of the Projectile Development Establishment from Fort Halstead in Kent to Aberporth. A Pyper 2016 based on documents from Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth
A History of RAF Aberporth



PRN - 109270

NAME - OBSERVATION POST 7 LLWYN OCHROG

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

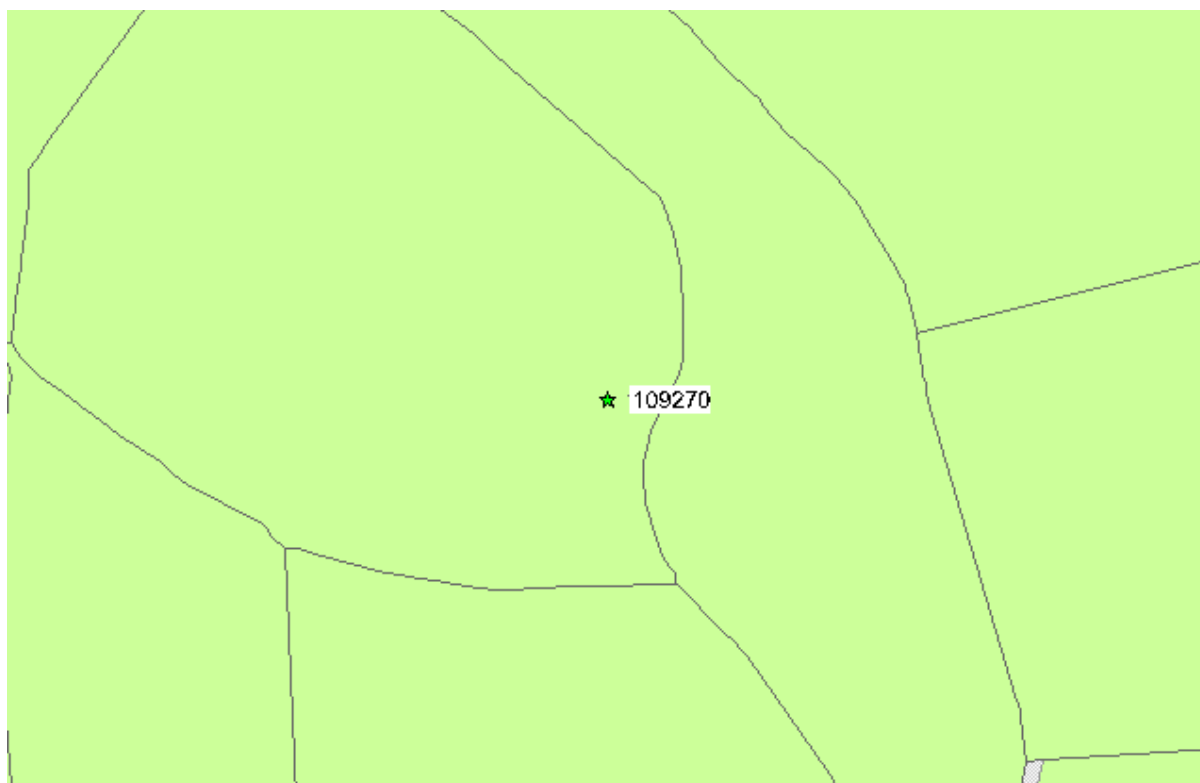
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN43326086 **COMMUNITY** - Henfynyw

HER DESCRIPTION -

A map (undated, circa late 1940s) shows a proposed location for an Observation Post and 2009 aerial photographs confirm a small square building at the site. A number of observation posts were built along the west Wales coast to track missiles launched from Aberporth range (PRN 107896). Documents dated 26th October 1957 identify this OP as surplus to requirements. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives and APs.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth
Next Perspectives 2009 Digital aerial photo mapping



PRN - 109271

NAME - OBSERVATION POST 5 LLANTYSILIOGOGO

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

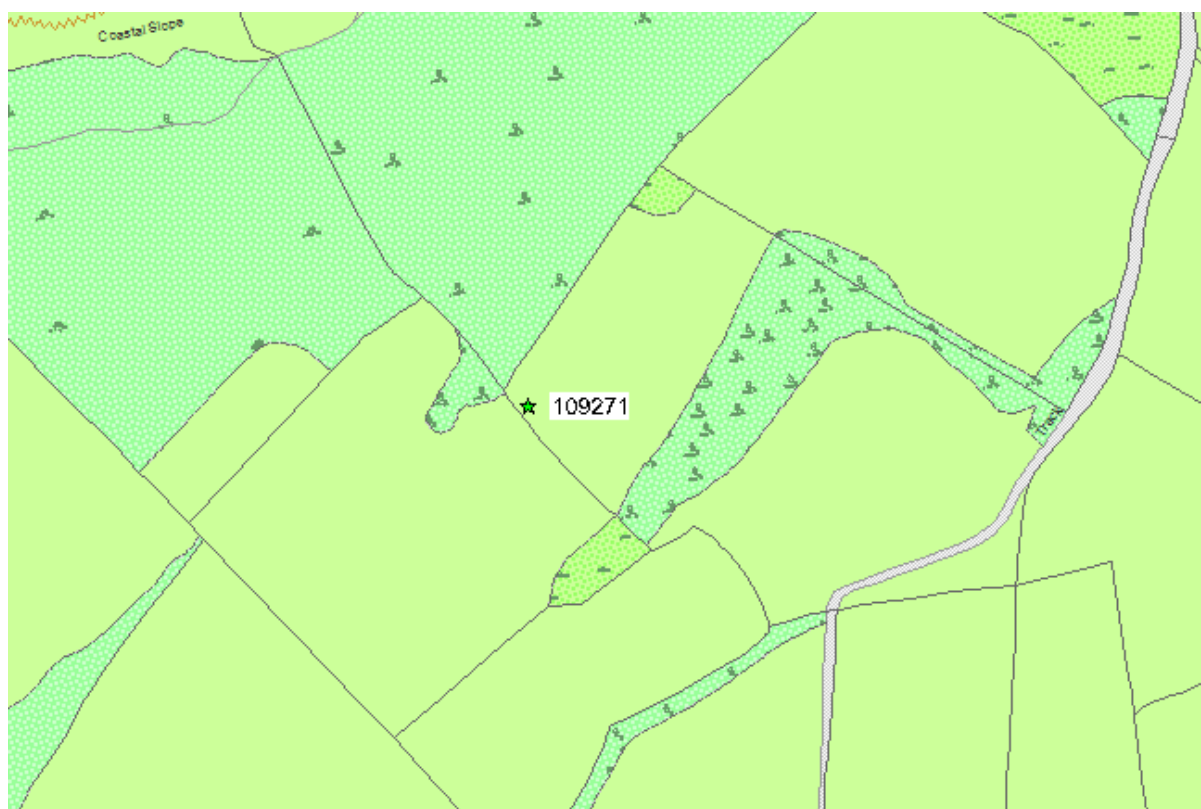
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN36075773 **COMMUNITY** - Llandysiliogogo

HER DESCRIPTION -

The site of number 15 Observation Post is shown on an undated map (late 1940s). A number of observation posts were constructed to track the trajectory of missiles tested on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). It was surplus to requirements by 1956. A Pyper, 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109272

NAME - OBSERVATION POST 1 TY HEN, PENBRYN

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

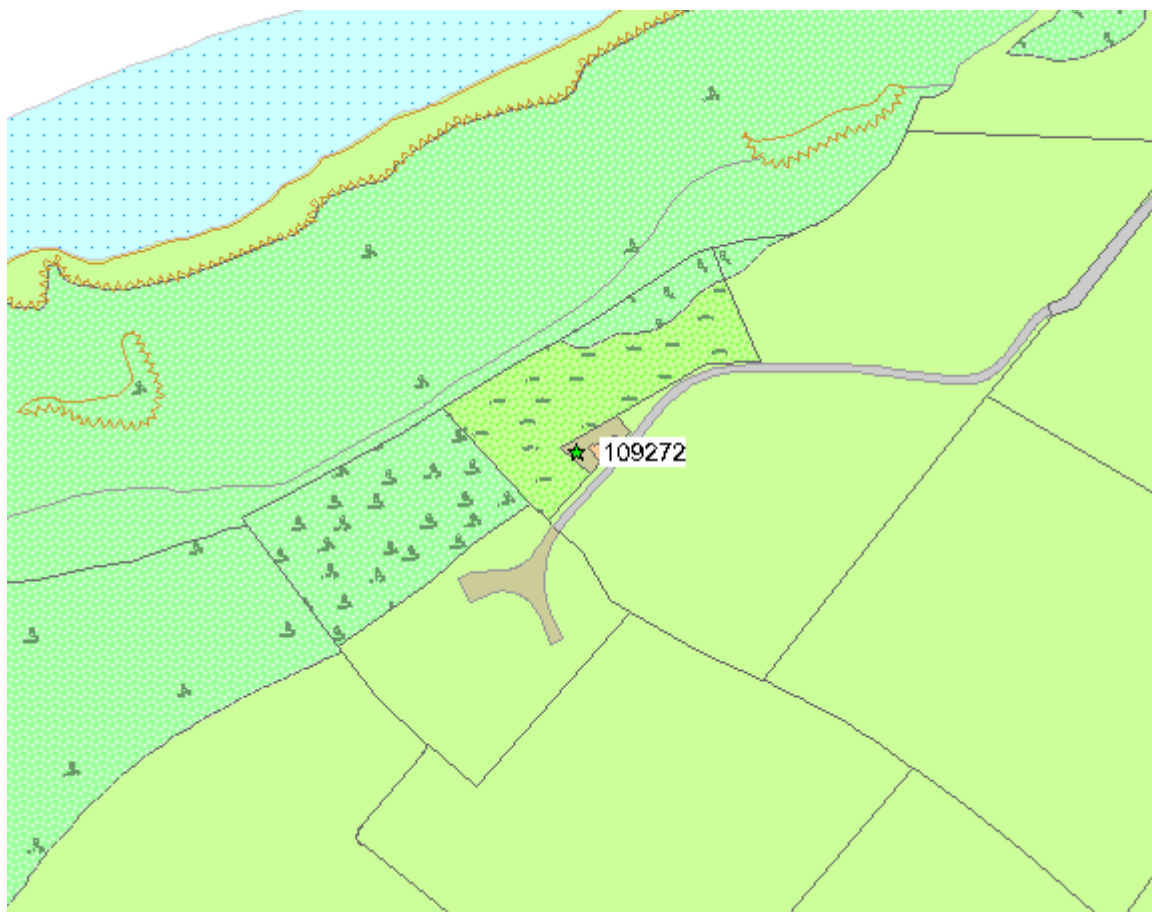
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN28575184 **COMMUNITY** - Penbryn

HER DESCRIPTION -

The site of number 1 Observation Post is shown on an undated map (late 1940s). A number of observation posts were constructed to track the trajectory of missiles tested on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper, 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109273

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 2 MORFA ISAF

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

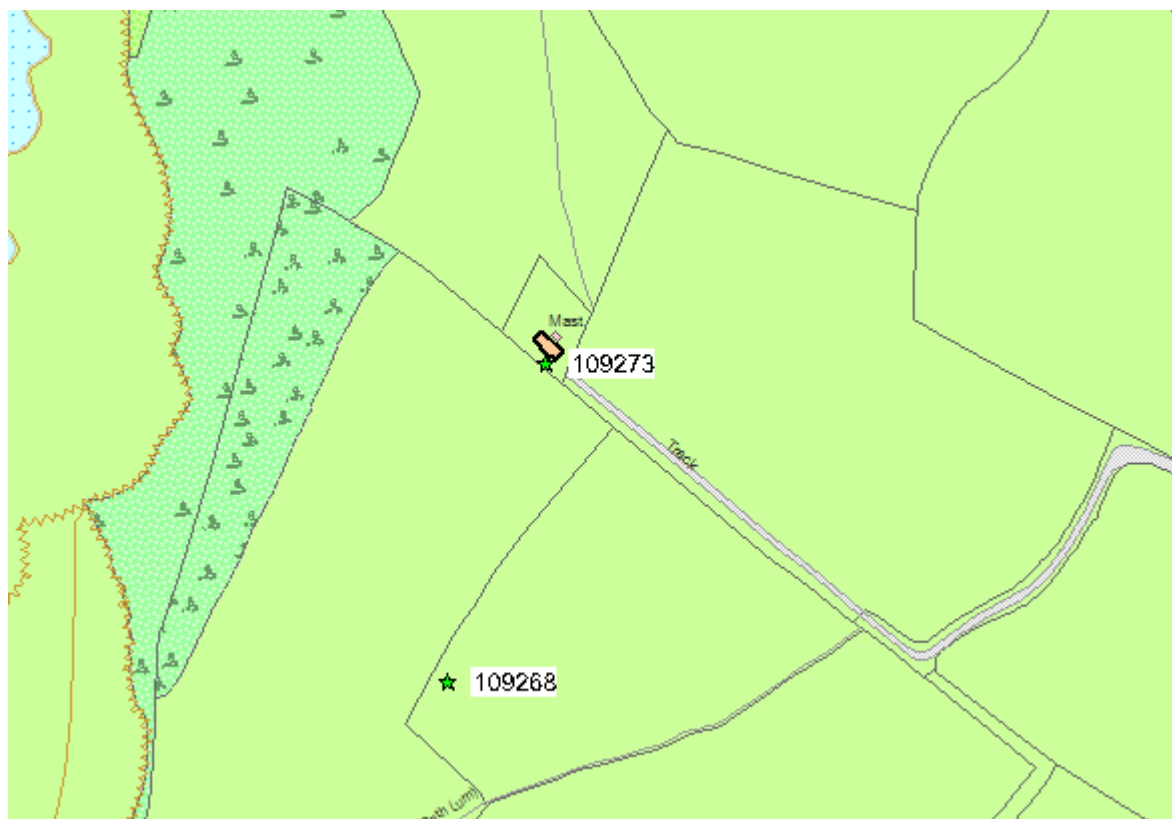
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN29915308 **COMMUNITY** - Penbryn

HER DESCRIPTION -

The site of number 2 Observation Post is shown on a map dated 29th January 1958. A number of observation posts were constructed to track the trajectory of missiles tested on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). Aerial photographs from 2009 suggest structures are still present on the plot. Further plans show a proposed site for a new observation post to the south (PRN 109268). A Pyper, 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth
Next Perspectives 2009 Digital aerial photo mapping



PRN - 109274

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 24 CONSTITUTION HILL

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

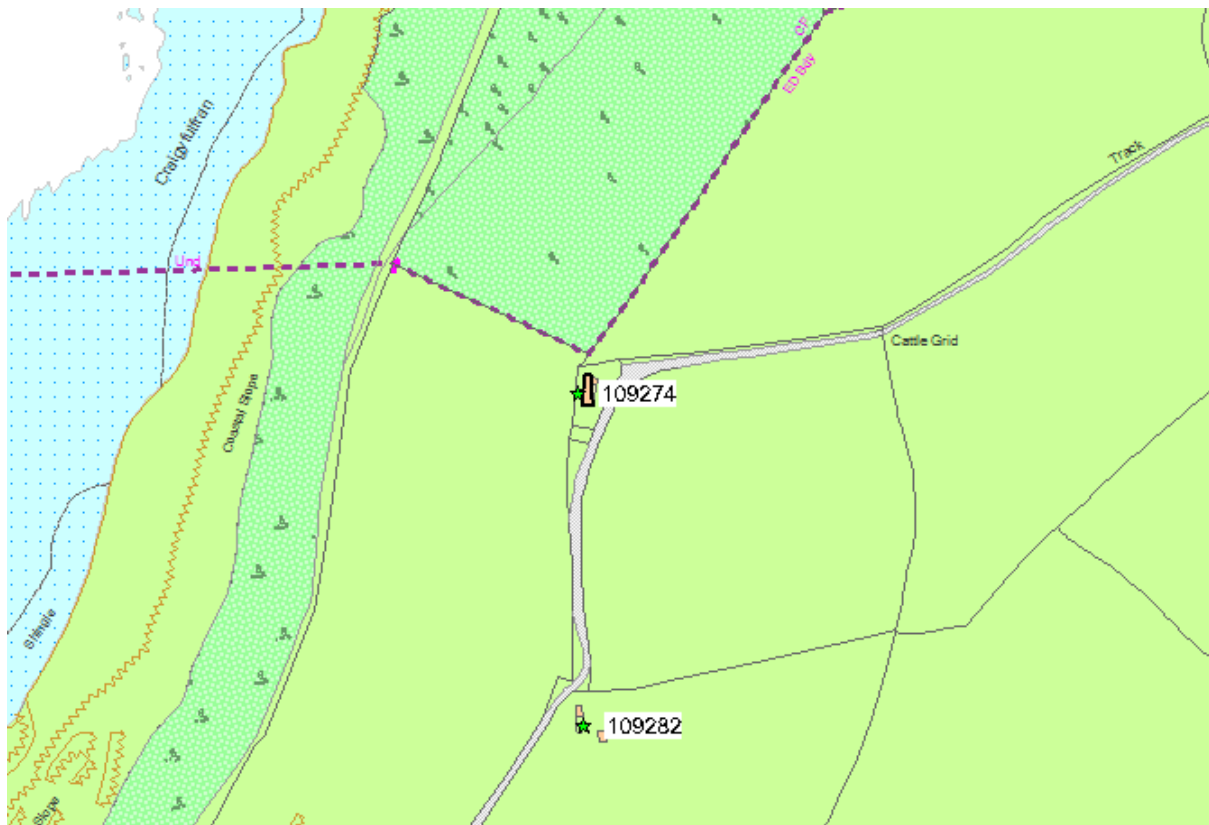
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN58628314 **COMMUNITY** - Aberystwyth

HER DESCRIPTION -

The site of number 24 Observation Post is shown on an undated map (late 1940s) with a proposed new site to the south. A number of observation posts were constructed along the coast to track the trajectory of missiles tested on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper, 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109275

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 14 HELIGFAWR, BLAENPORTH

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

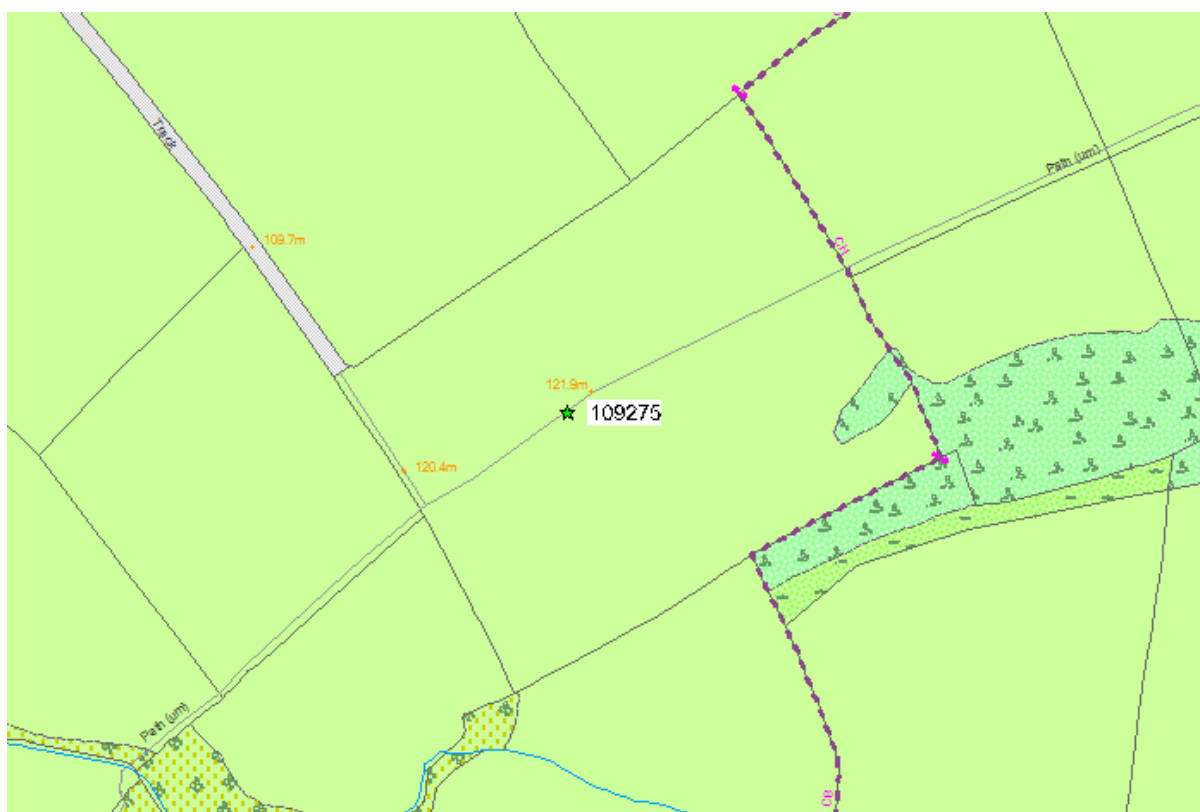
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN27475078 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

The site of number 14 Observation Post is shown on an undated map. A number of observation posts were constructed to track the trajectory of missiles tested on the Aberporth range (PRN 107896). Conveyancing documents indicate it was bought by the war department in 1940 and returned to the former landowner in 1959. A Pyper, 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109276

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 31 STRUMBLEHEAD

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

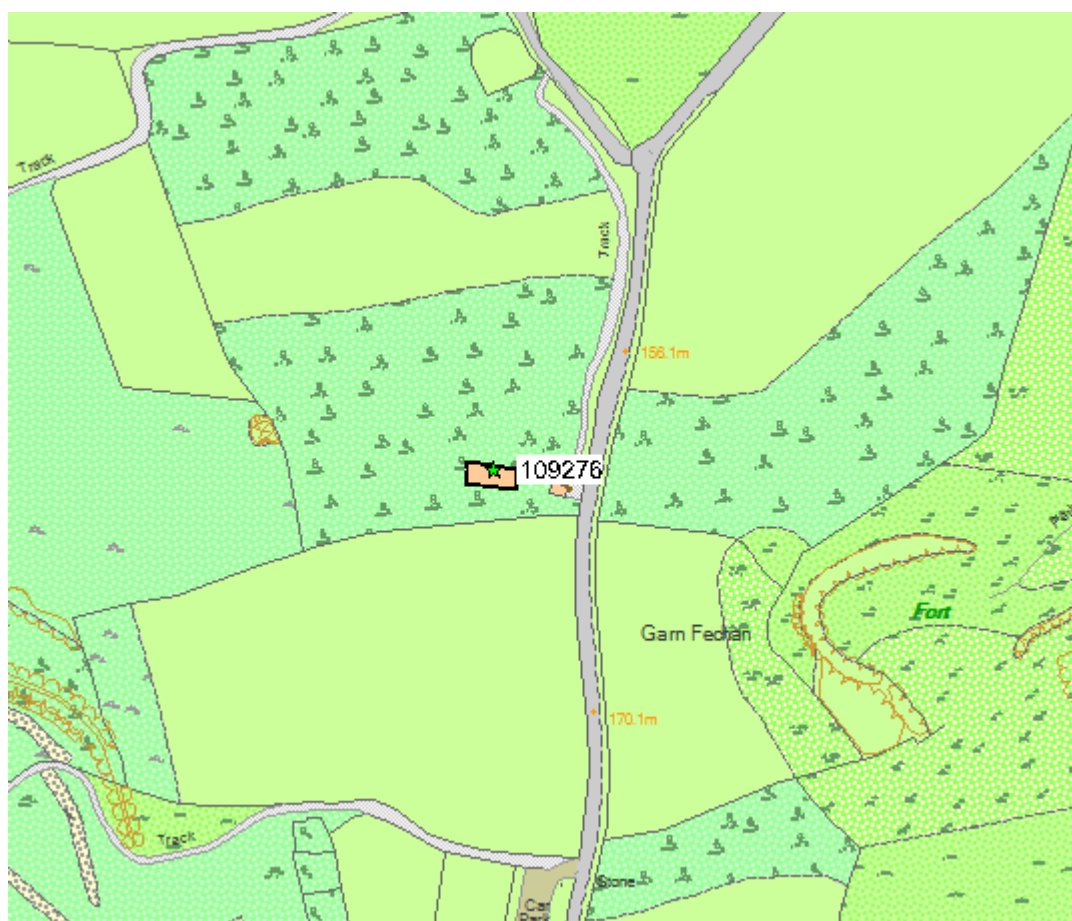
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SM89883899 **COMMUNITY** - Pencaer

HER DESCRIPTION -

Documents indicates the site of an observation post associated with tracking the trajectories of missiles being tested at Aberporth range (PRN 107896). The map shows existing brick and concrete buildings, an area to be levelled to site a radar van, mast plinths (4) and a GPO pole. It was established in 1960 and vacated in June 1965. A Pyper 2016 based on documents within Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109277

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 9 LLANON

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

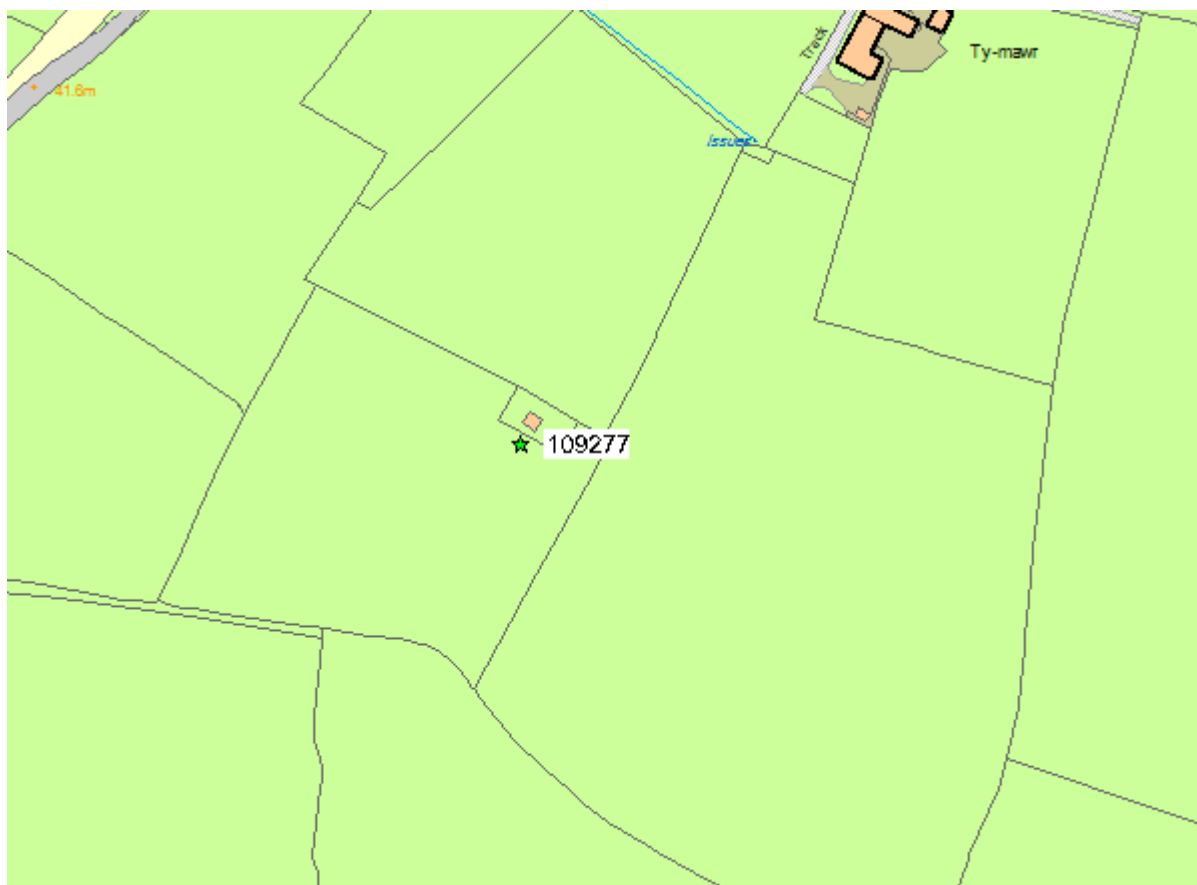
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN50846596 **COMMUNITY** - Llansantffraid

HER DESCRIPTION -

Documents relating to the lease and acquisition of land to site an observation post at Llanon in December 1939. A number of observation posts were constructed to observe the trajectories of missiles being developed and tested at Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109278

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 27 DINAS

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

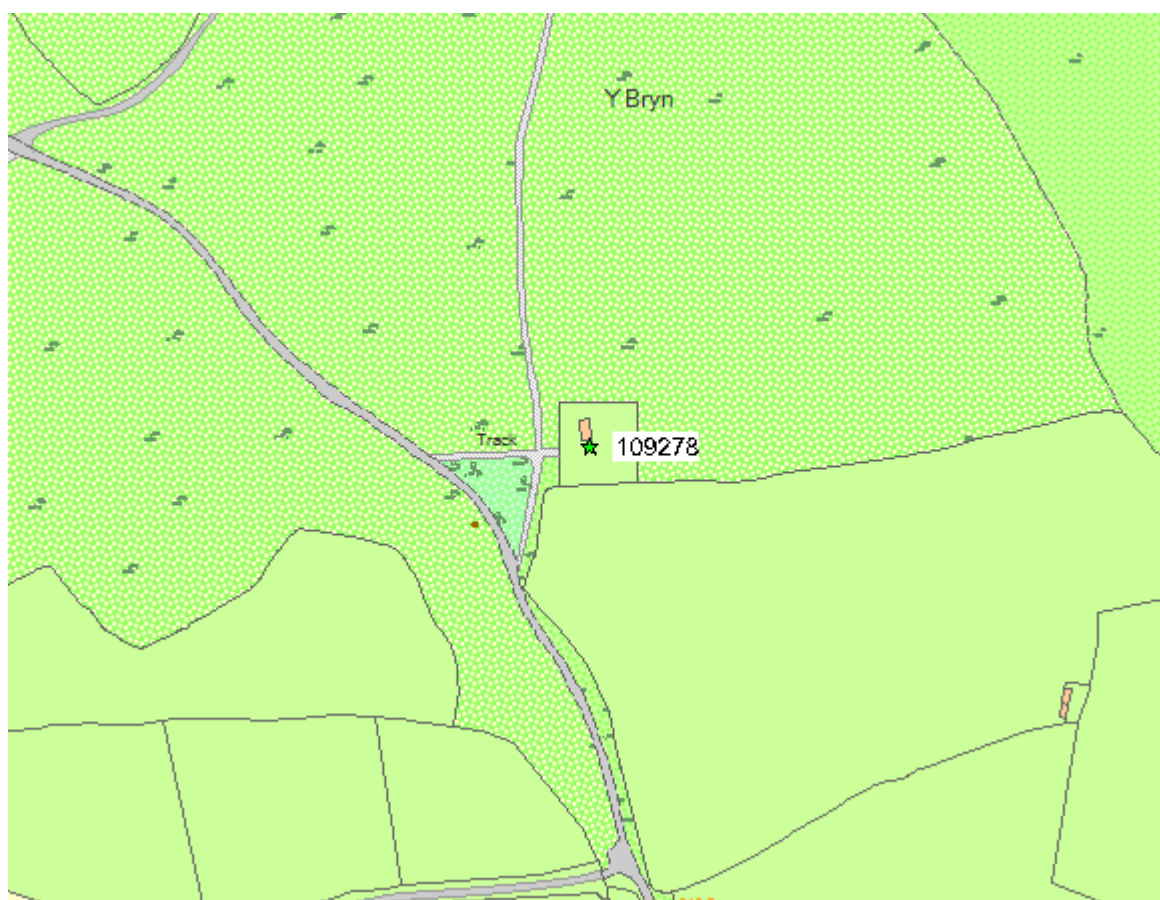
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN01413793 **COMMUNITY** - Dinas Cross

HER DESCRIPTION -

Documents relating to the observation post at Dinas show the location and specification which includes; an observation building, two aerial towers, an access road and necessary engineering services. Further correspondence and photographs dated 1963 show a wooden tower 70ft high which carried the Doppler reference receiving aerial (a system of radar for measuring velocity). The post housed electronic equipment forming part of the Aberporth range (PRN 107896) instrumentation network. These structures dotted around the coast allowed the tracking of trajectories of missiles tested on the range. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109279

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 12A METEOR THEODOLITE SITE

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

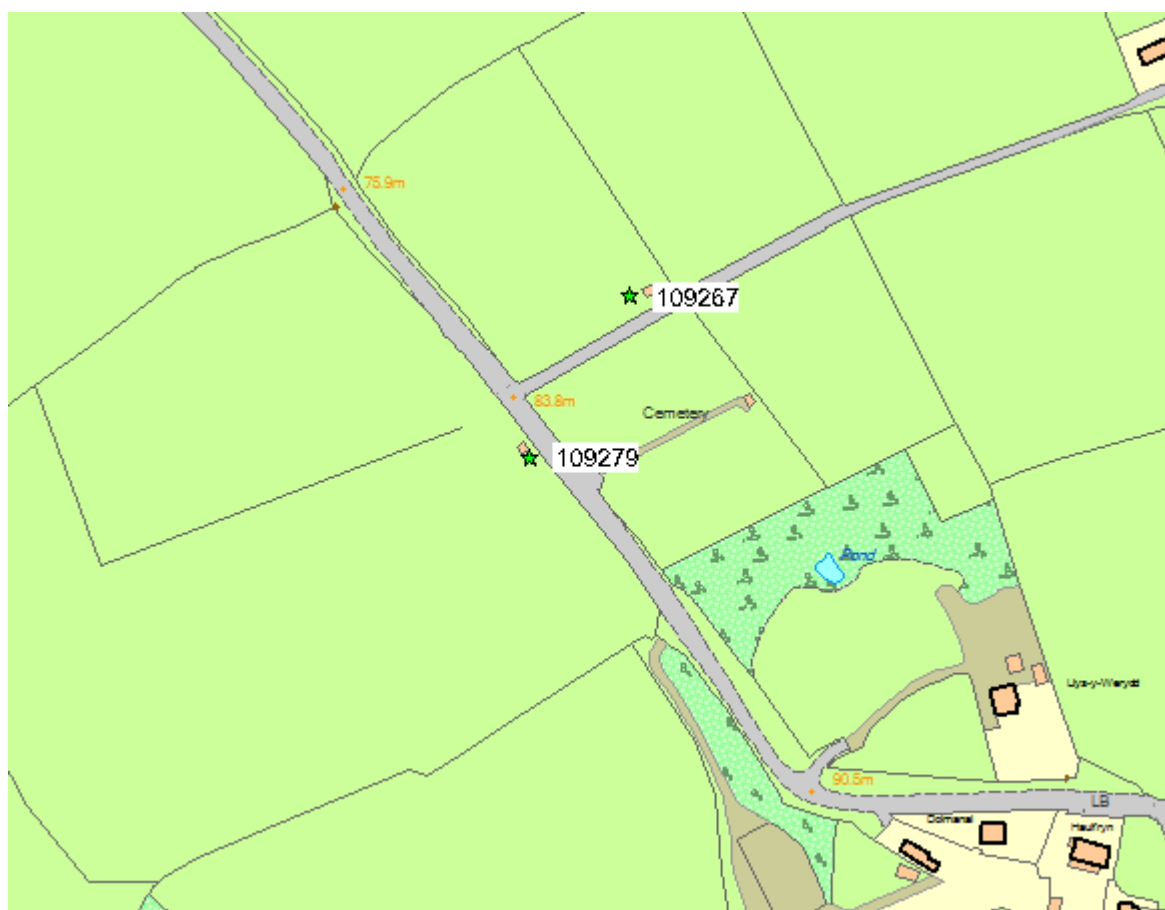
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN26575064 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

An observation post named 'Meteor Theodolite Site Crown Freehold WD 1939 (Now MOS)' is annotated on the map for Observation post No 12. Further notes show a plan of the site and list its construction: 11" cavity brick walls 1'0" thick concrete roof Size 10'0" x10'0"x 8'6" high 5 concrete plinths in enclosure Site enclosed by concrete post and wire fence. These observation posts were established to track the trajectory of missiles being launched from the range at Aberporth. Site disposed on in 1957. A Pyper 2016 based on document in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109280

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 10 LLANRHYSTYD

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

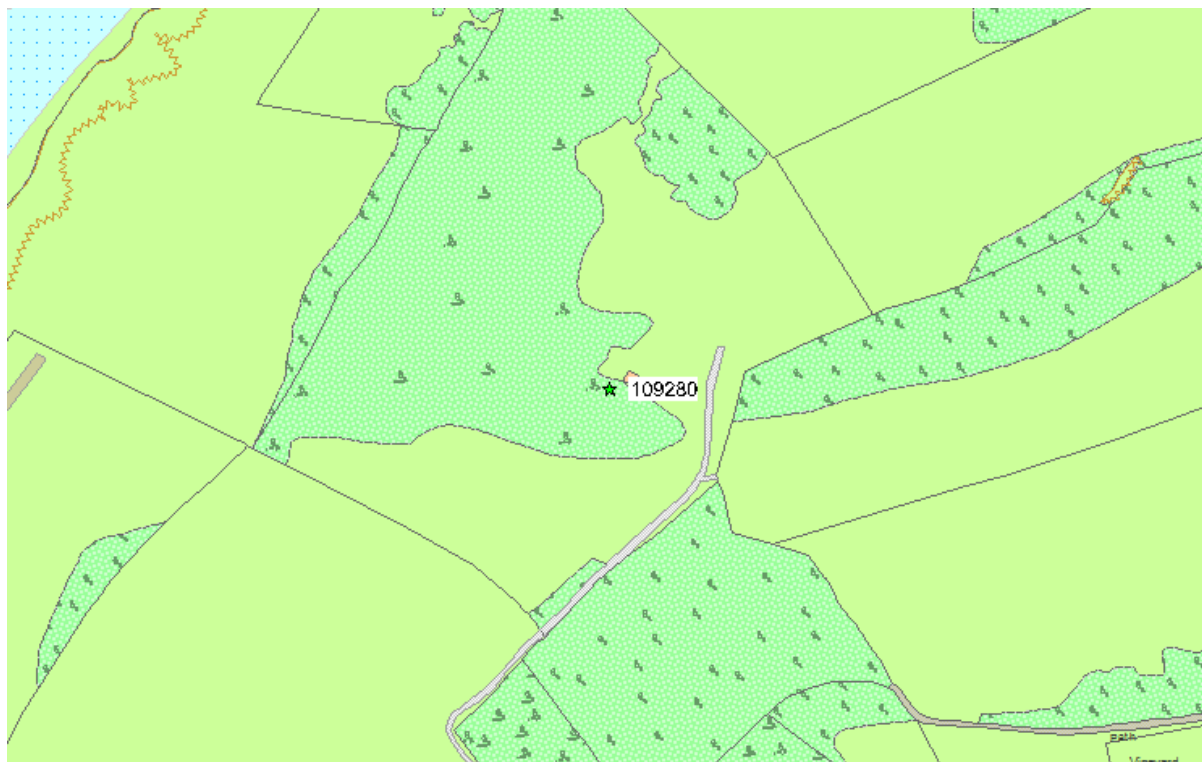
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN53507010 **COMMUNITY** - Llanrhystyd

HER DESCRIPTION -

An observation post at Llanrhystyd was constructed in 1939, leased from the landowner by the War Department. A number of observation posts were established along the coast to track the trajectory of missiles being launched at Aberporth range (PRN 107896). A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109281

NAME - OBSERVATION POST

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

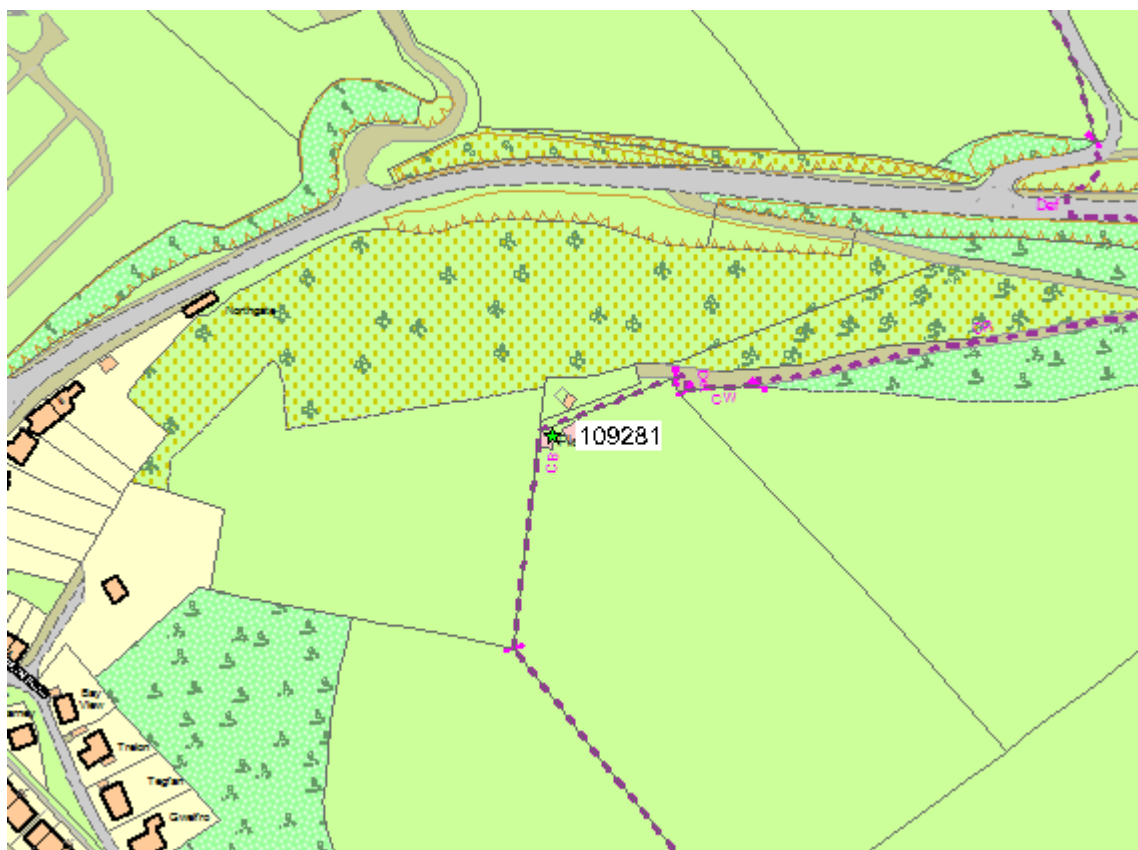
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN46366307 **COMMUNITY** - Aberaeron

HER DESCRIPTION -

A conveyance and attached map show the location of this observation post which was leased by the War Department on the 20th December 1939. A number of observation posts were established along the coast to track the trajectory of missiles being tested at the Aberporth Projectile Development Establishment. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in the Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109282

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 29 CONSTITUTION HILL

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN58628300 **COMMUNITY** - Aberystwyth

HER DESCRIPTION -

A new observation post was built on Constitution Hill in 1957, in addition to the observation post No 24. A number of observation posts were constructed along the coast to track the trajectory of missiles being launched from the Projectile Development Establishment at Aberporth. A Pyper 2016 based on documents in Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109283

NAME - OBSERVATION POST NO 28 GODRE GWYN

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

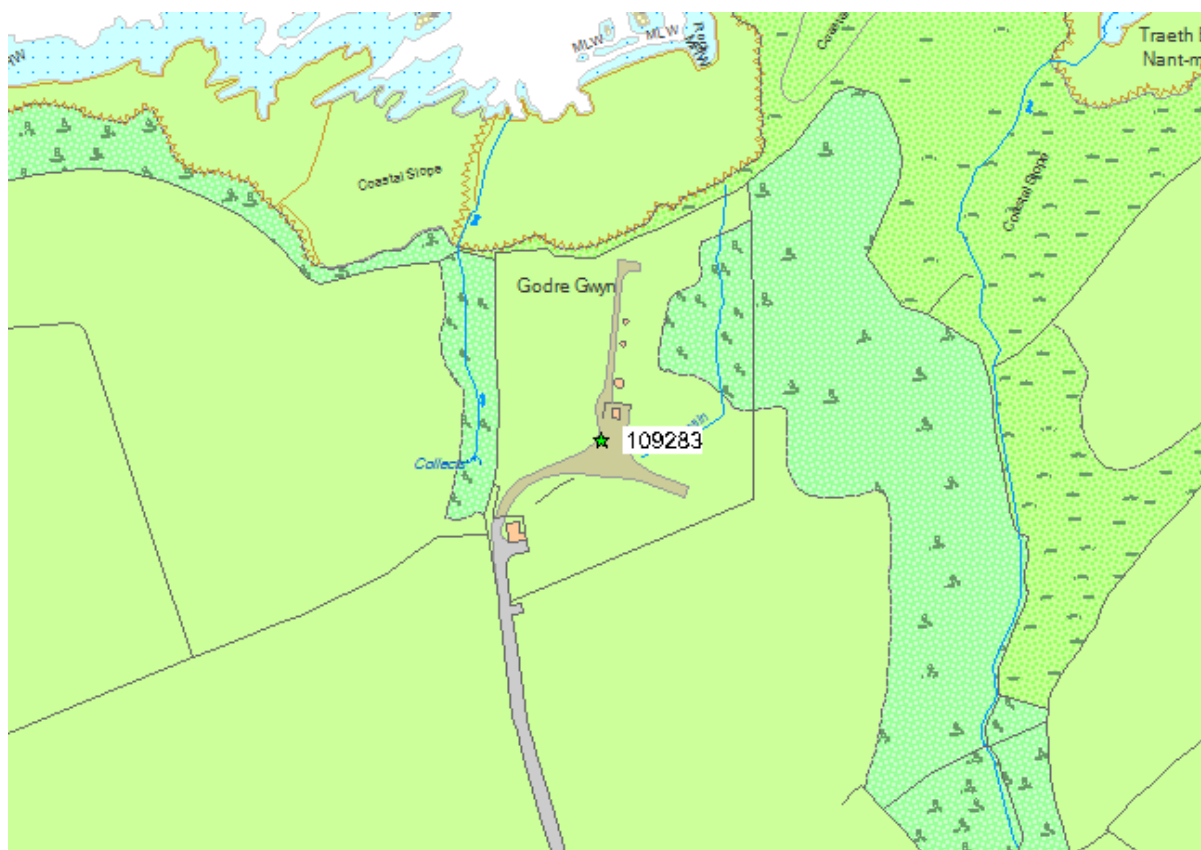
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN20885196 **COMMUNITY** - Y Ferwig

HER DESCRIPTION -

An observation post established to track the trajectory of missiles being launched from the Projectile Development Establishment at Aberporth. A map dated 1958 show its location. A Pyper based on documents from the Ceredigion Archives.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109284

NAME - OBSERVATION POST DINAS LOCHTYN

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - MODERN

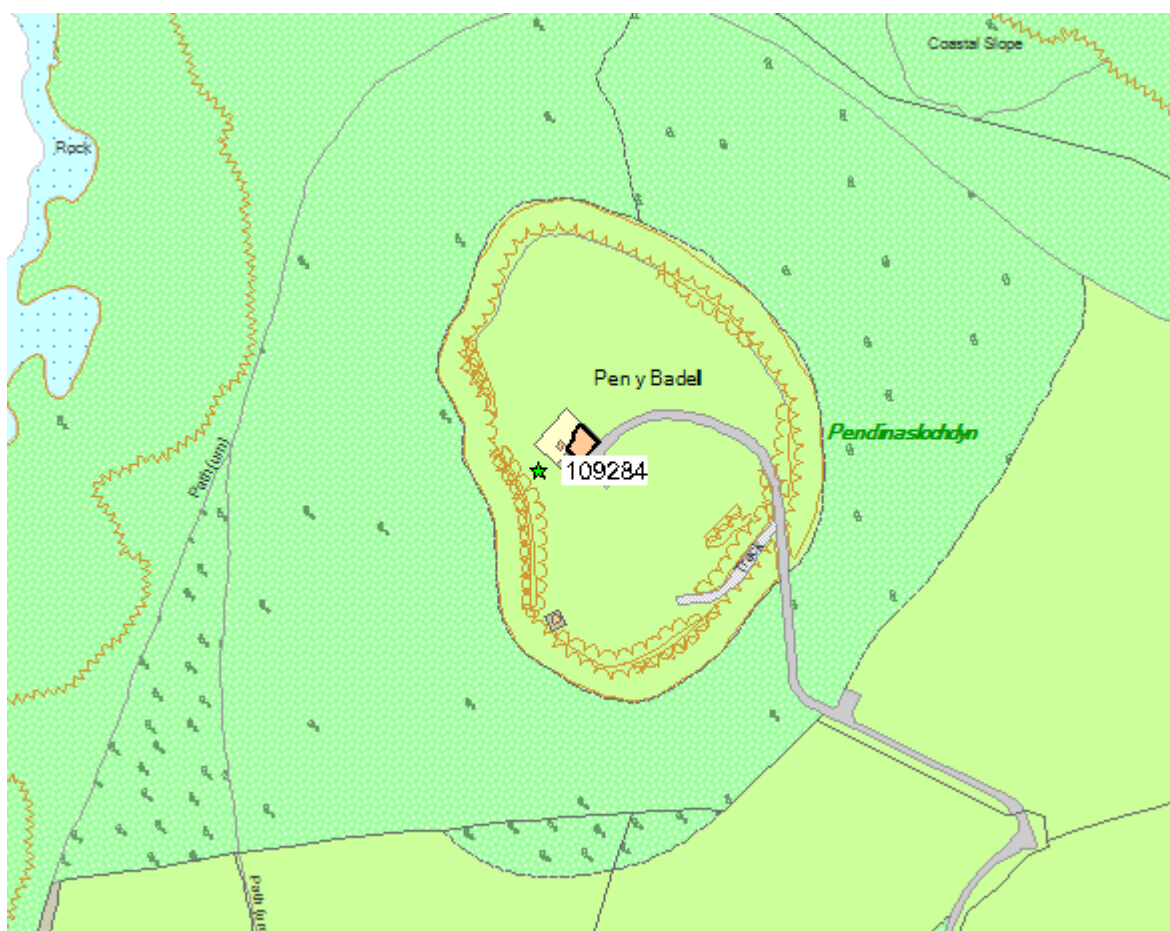
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN31535485 **COMMUNITY** - Llangrannog

HER DESCRIPTION -

The original observation post built in 1939 to track missiles launched from the Projectile Development Establishment at Aberporth was demolished and a new observation post built beside it in the early 1990s. As the site is located within a scheduled ancient monument, an Iron Age Hillfort, Dyfed Archaeological Trust carried out an excavation on the footprint of both sites, both pre-construction of the new building and post demolition. A Pyper based on information from K Murphy.

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth



PRN - 109285

NAME - MOS EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHMENT YNYSLAS

TYPE - MILITARY CAMP

PERIOD - MODERN

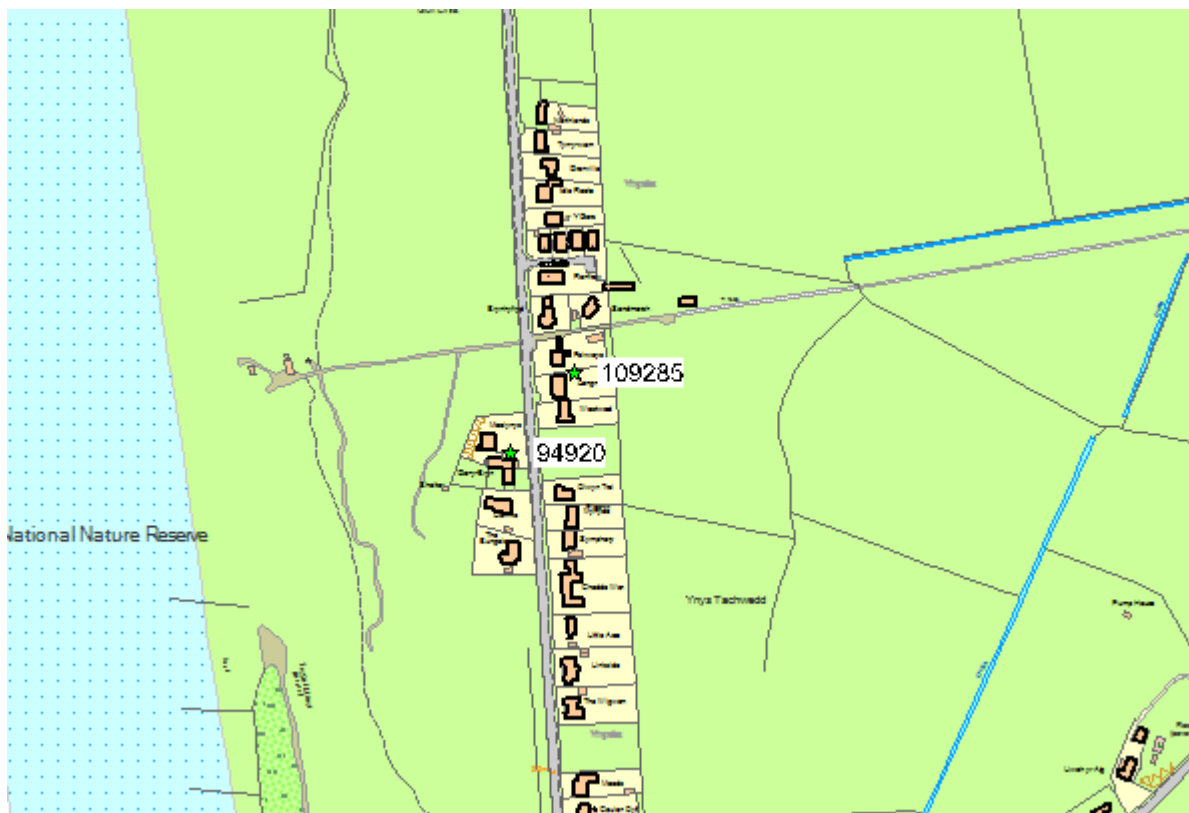
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN60809300 **COMMUNITY** - BORTH

HER DESCRIPTION -

Towards the end of the Second World War a range was established at Ynyslas for the testing of anti-aircraft missiles, (PRN 94906). The associated camp was established near the requisitioned farmhouse of Moel Ynys (PRN 94920) which served as sergeants' accommodation. Huts were built to the north of the farmstead and a hutted camp was constructed to the east of the crossroads which aerial photographs show consisted of a gridded pattern of 12 huts to the south of the road and a further row of six to the north. Fieldwork by the RCAHMW have established that a two BCF (British Concrete Foundation) huts survive and other structures survive as either buried archaeology or ruinous structures. A Pyper based on RCAHMW descriptions.

SOURCES - 1945 SECRET Appendix to SD 559 List of Firing Ranges of which the location and danger height are shown on SD 559, Edition of May, 1945
RAF 1946 106G/UK1450



PRN - 109286

NAME - CILFFORCH

TYPE - MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

PERIOD - MODERN

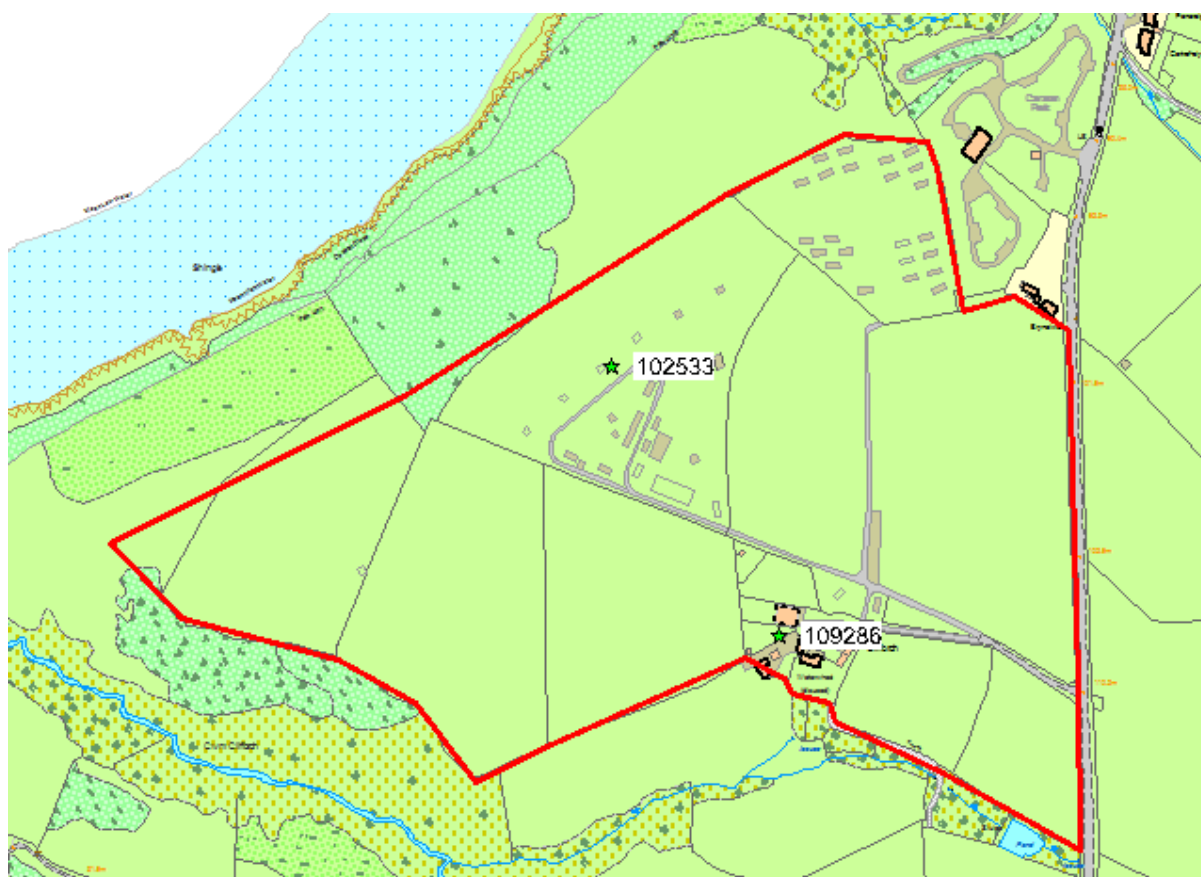
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN44606160 **COMMUNITY** - Aberaeron

HER DESCRIPTION -

The headquarters of the Light Anti-Aircraft School established on the cliffs southwest of Aberaeron, probably in 1940. The local farms were evacuated and the house of Cilfforch was the Commanding Officers headquarters. An airstrip was established on the east side of the A487, used for liaison aircraft. It was used by the RAF, Army, Royal Marines and later in the war by the United States Army. A Pyper 2016.

SOURCES - Jones, Ivor 2007 Airfields and Landing Grounds of Wales: West



PRN - 109287

NAME - ABERPORTH INCLINE RAILWAY

TYPE - RAILWAY INCLINED PLANE

PERIOD - MODERN

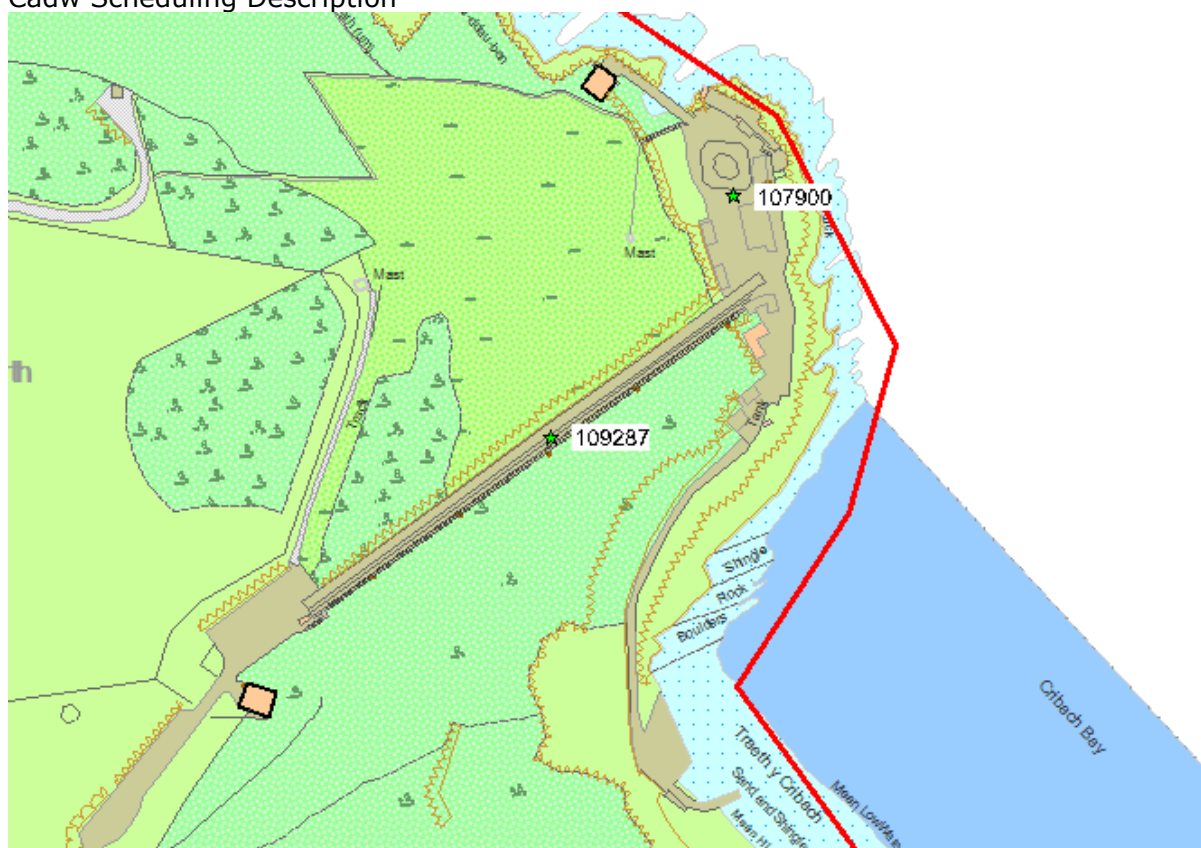
EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN25005234 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

An incline railway purpose built to transport materials down the steep headland at Aberporth to the ship-simulation firing platform (PRN 107900). A facility to test and evaluate the launching of Sea Slug missiles from Royal Navy ships built between 1951-4 in the cliffs below the headland at Aberporth. A Pyper 2016 based on scheduling description.

SOURCES - Jon Berry 2011 Desperately Seeking Sea Slug
Cadw Scheduling Description



PRN - 109288

NAME - ABERPORTH ANTI AIRCRAFT PRACTICE CAMP

TYPE - FIRING RANGE

PERIOD - MODERN

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR - SN24005232 **COMMUNITY** - Aberporth

HER DESCRIPTION -

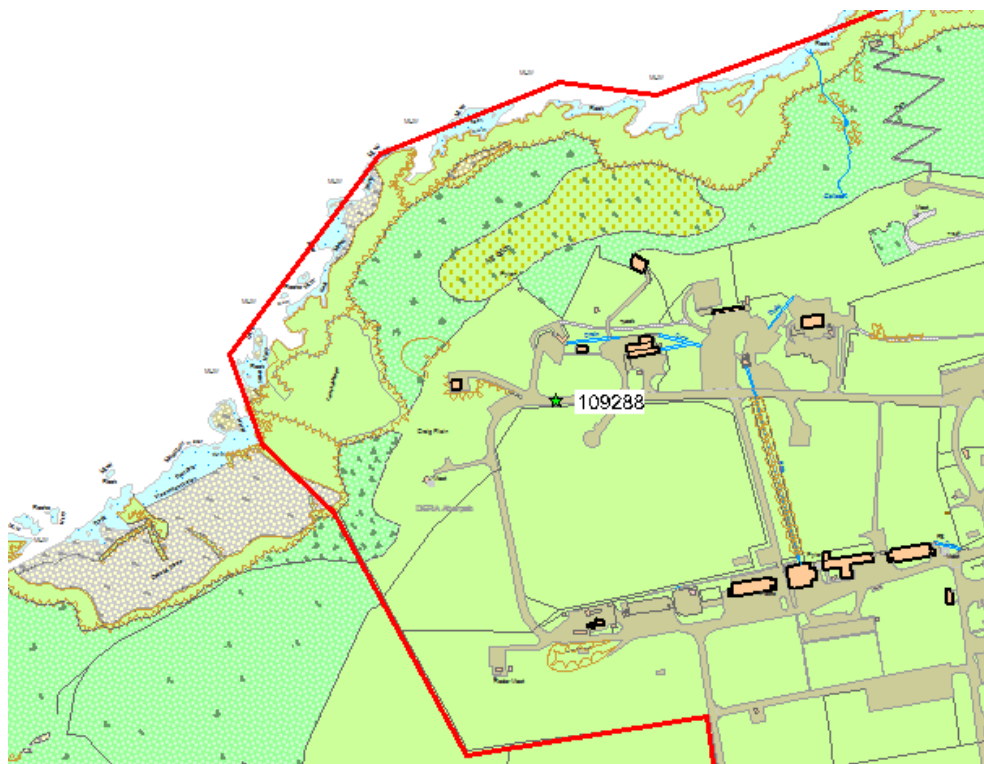
An anti-aircraft practice camp was established on the Aberporth headland adjacent to the Projectile Development Establishment (PRN 107896) it was originally bought in 1939 by the War Department in 1938/9. Plans of the headland in 1949 continue to show the boundary between the A-A practice camp though in reality the anti-aircraft school closed after the war. Aerial photos from 1946 show an extensive complex of buildings and structures on the headland, with a series of gun hards at the cliff top facing out to sea. A Pyper based on documents in Ceredigion Archives (RAE/Ab/1029).

SOURCES - 1941-71 Research Aircraft Establishment: Aberporth

RAF 1946 106G UK 1424

RAF 1950 541-495

OS 1972 72_237



PRN - 109303

NAME - 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD

TYPE - MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTS **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR SN 5748 **COMMUNITY** Lampeter

HER DESCRIPTION -

3rd Cardiganshire Battalion Home Guard was established in Lampeter in February 1942. The exact location of the HQ is not recorded, but was likely to be a requisitioned building. The battalion consisted of four companies A, B, C and D and had observation posts at Lampeter Golf Links, Trichrug and Cross Hands, Mydroilyn. Training exercises took place across the region until the Home Guard Stand Down on 3rd December 1944. A Pyper 2016, based on Davies & Lloyd 1945.

SOURCES

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E. 1945 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD The Naval and Military Press Ltd

PRN - 109304

NAME - 2nd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD

TYPE - MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTS **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR SN1746 **COMMUNITY** Cardigan

HER DESCRIPTION -

2nd Cardiganshire Battalion Home Guard was established in Cardigan. The exact location of the HQ is not recorded, but was likely to be a requisitioned building. The battalion was operational until the Home Guard Stand Down on 3rd December 1944. A Pyper 2016, based on Davies & Lloyd 1945.

SOURCES

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E. 1945 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD The Naval and Military Press Ltd

PRN - 109305

NAME - 1st CARDS BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD

TYPE - MILITARY HEADQUARTERS

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTS **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR SN5881 **COMMUNITY** Aberystwyth

HER DESCRIPTION -

1st Cardiganshire Battalion Home Guard was established in Aberystwyth. The exact location of the HQ is not recorded, but was likely to be a requisitioned building. The battalion was operational until the Home Guard Stand Down on 3rd December 1944. A Pyper 2016, based on Davies & Lloyd 1945.

SOURCES

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E. 1945 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD The Naval and Military Press Ltd

PRN - 109306

NAME - LAMPETER GOLF LINK OBSERVATION POST

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTS **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR SN562486 **COMMUNITY** Lampeter

HER DESCRIPTION -

A Home Guard observation post is referred to at the Lampeter Golf Links, the nature of the post and exact location is unknown.
A Pyper 2016 based on Davies and Lloyd 1945

SOURCES

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E. 1945 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD The Naval and Military Press Ltd

PRN - 109307

NAME - TRICHRUG OBSERVATION POST

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTS **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR SN5460 **COMMUNITY** - Ciliau Aeron

HER DESCRIPTION -

A Home Guard observation post is referred to at Trichrug, the nature of the post and exact location is unknown.
A Pyper 2016 based on Davies and Lloyd 1945

SOURCES

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E. 1945 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD The Naval and Military Press Ltd

PRN - 109308

NAME - CROSS HANDS OBSERVATION POST

TYPE - OBSERVATION POST

PERIOD - Modern

EVIDENCE - DOCUMENTS **CONDITION** - NOT KNOWN

NGR SN446557 **COMMUNITY** Llanarth

HER DESCRIPTION -

A Home Guard observation post is referred to at Cross Hands, Mydroilyn, the nature of the post and exact location is unknown.

A Pyper 2016 based on Davies and Lloyd 1945

SOURCES

Davies, J & Lloyd, J.E. 1945 3rd CARDS. BATTALION HEADQUARTERS HOME GUARD The Naval and Military Press Ltd

**Second World War and later Camps and Ranges in Ceredigion
REPORT NUMBER 2015/16**

**Mawrth 2016
March 2016**

This report has been prepared by Alice Pyper

Position: Project Manager Heritage Management

Signature 

Date 31st March 2016

This report has been checked and approved by Ken Murphy
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position: Trust Director

Signature 

Date 31 March 2016

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have
on the content or presentation of this report

