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

Prepared for: Nant-y-castell

BWW Reference No 15198

Prepared by Will Steele

Project Record No. 63100

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Historic landscape character & archaeological and historical content

Nant-y-castell is centred on NGR SN35193028 in the community of Cynwyl Elfed, Carmarthenshire.

The woodland would appear to be long established as much of it is recorded as such on the Ordnance Survey Old Series Map (1831). The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889) identifies Allt Nant-cwm Rhys, Allt Nant-y-castell and Allt Pen-rhiw-gwial, interspersed with areas of brushwood and furze and the fields of several small holdings, which were abandoned over the course of the twentieth century (six deserted rural settlement sites (PRNs 22705, 22706, 63101-4) are now identified here).

Modern maps show Allt Nant-y-castell comprising a mixture of conifer plantations and deciduous woodland.

Historic Environment Objectives

The purpose of the management is to

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

GENERAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

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

Planning

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

Mitigation

- Do not plant or re-plant trees within the defined sensitive areas surrounding historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not carry out any excavation or erect any new building or structure in the vicinity of historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not site new fencing or vehicular tracks within the sensitive areas of historic environment features without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology.
- Do not remove any material from the sensitive areas of historic environment features or deposit spoil or rubbish on them.
- Do not store timber or machinery within the sensitive areas of historic environment features.

- Do not use heavy machinery in the sensitive areas of historic environment features, especially in wet weather.
- Do not harvest or otherwise fell trees within the sensitive areas of historic environment features without prior discussion with Cambria Archaeology.
- No intrusive archaeological investigation (such as excavation, field-walking to collect surface finds or metal detecting) should be allowed without the prior approval of Cambria Archaeology, to ensure that such work complies with appropriate guidance - the *Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct and Standards and Guidance*, and the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales, 2006*.

Proactive management

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

Legislation and Guidance

- **Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)** have statutory protection and consent from Cadw will be required for works to these monuments.
- **Listed buildings** have statutory protection and permission from the Local Planning Authority will be required for some works. Listed status may also apply to buildings and structures within the curtilage of a listed building.
- Areas of **historic parkland** of national importance are included on the Cadw/ICOMOS *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales*. There are also many non-registered parks of lesser quality but which, nevertheless, form an important component in the historic environment and require appropriate management.
- A number of **historic landscapes** are registered in the Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW *Registers of Outstanding and Special Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales*.
- The reporting of **archaeological finds** arising from woodland work must comply with the *Treasure Act, 1996*. Guidance on this and on the reporting of other **portable antiquities** can be found on the Portable Antiquities Scheme website (<http://www.finds.org.uk>).

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

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT FEATURES

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

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

PRN 22705	CWM	Post Medieval cottage	SN34463043
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A cottage identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889), lying a short distance to the west of Ty Coch farmstead. The site now lies within woodland and the cottage is no longer identified. Presumed ruinous.

PRN 22706	TROED-Y-RHIW DDU	Post Medieval cottage	SN34743032
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A former cottage site overlooking the Nant Gochen. A cottage and outbuilding are identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Recent Ordnance Survey mapping shows the cottage building in outline, suggesting that it has now been abandoned. The site now lies in woodland.

PRN 63101 TY COCH **Post Medieval farmstead** **SN34433040**

U-plan farmstead identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Present condition unknown. It is not recorded on recent maps. Presumed abandoned.

PRN 63102	PEN-Y-PONTBREN	Post Medieval cottage	SN35133032
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A cottage alongside the Nant Gochen, recorded on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). The site now lies at the juncture of two forestry tracks. Presumed destroyed.

PRN 63103	Post Medieval cottage	SN35713100
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The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889) records an un-named building at this location, presumably identifying a former cottage. Present condition unknown. The site now lies within a conifer plantation.

PRN 63104 CWM-CRUGIAU

Post Medieval cottage

SN35663067

A cottage identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889) alongside the Nant Gochen. Present condition unknown. It is no longer marked on recent maps. The site now lies within a forestry plantation.

PRN 63105

Post Medieval footbridge SN35733101

A footbridge identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Present condition unknown.

PRN 63106

Post Medieval footbridge SN35723069

A footbridge identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Present condition unknown.

PRN 63107

Post Medieval footbridge SN35213030

A footbridge identified on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (1889). Present condition unknown.

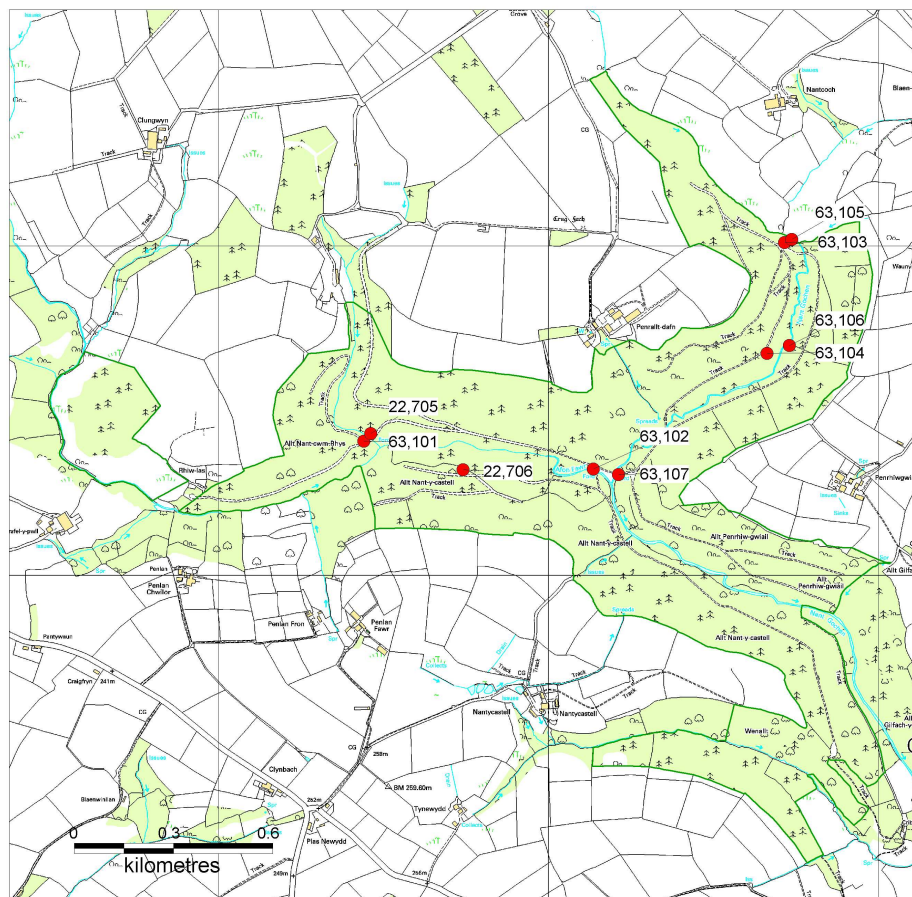
Sources consulted:

Ordnance Survey Old Series Map 1831 Sheet 41, 1"

Ordnance Survey 1889 Carmarthenshire Sheet 22.12,25"

Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire Sheet 22.12,25"

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



—	Application Boundary		Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (by PRN)
—	Linear Archaeological Features	●	Archaeological Sites (by PRN)

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