

Scheduled Ancient Monument Management Plan October 2015

CASTELL FLEMISH (CD021)

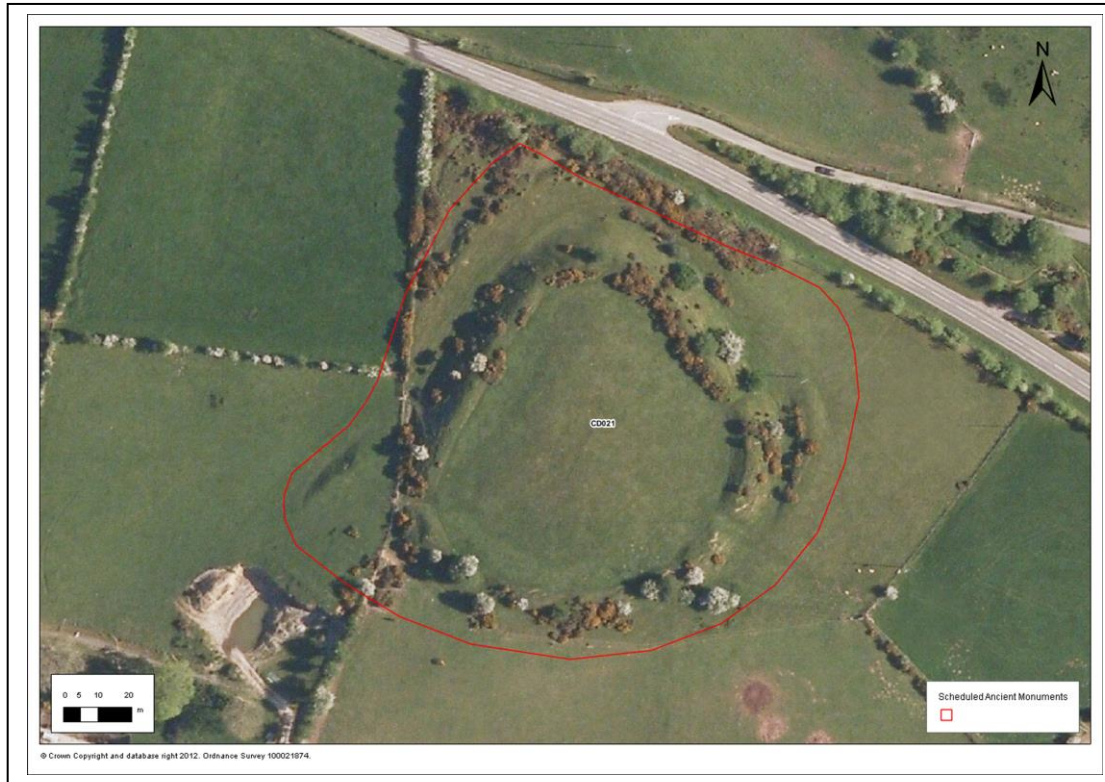


Figure 1. Aerial view (Crown Copyright 2012)

Customer Reference Number (CRN): A0028360

Farm name: Tyngaer



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This management advice has been produced within the Historic Environment Branch of Cadw to inform management of the Scheduled Ancient Monument included in the Advanced Element of the Glastir land management scheme.

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SAM name and reference number	Castell Flemish, CD021
Grid reference	SN 65421 63204
Current Cadw funded schemes (MA /AM Grant)	None
Cadw FMW and contact details	<p>Helen Burnham Field Monument Warden Cadw Welsh Government Tel: 01570 422075 Mobile: 07968 609833 E-mail: helen.burnham@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>

I. Site Description

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

- The monument comprises the remains of a hillfort, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (c. 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). Hillforts are usually located on hilltops and surrounded by a single or multiple earthworks of massive proportions. This monument consists of a fairly flat space surrounded by a bank at most c.2m above the interior. The ditch and counterscarp (there is no trace of a second ditch) are usually visible except in places on the south. There is a single simple entrance on NE side (modern gap c. 20m to W of it). Hillforts must have formed symbols of power within the landscape, while their function may have had as much to do with ostentation and display as defence.
- The monument is in the charters of Strata Florida Abbey, an estate in which Castell Flemish was included, and presumably the centre was the gift of the Lord Rhys in 1184. It is possible that this fortress, with its lands, was inherited by Rhys but having become militarily useless formed a suitable endowment for the abbey.
- The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail.
- The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

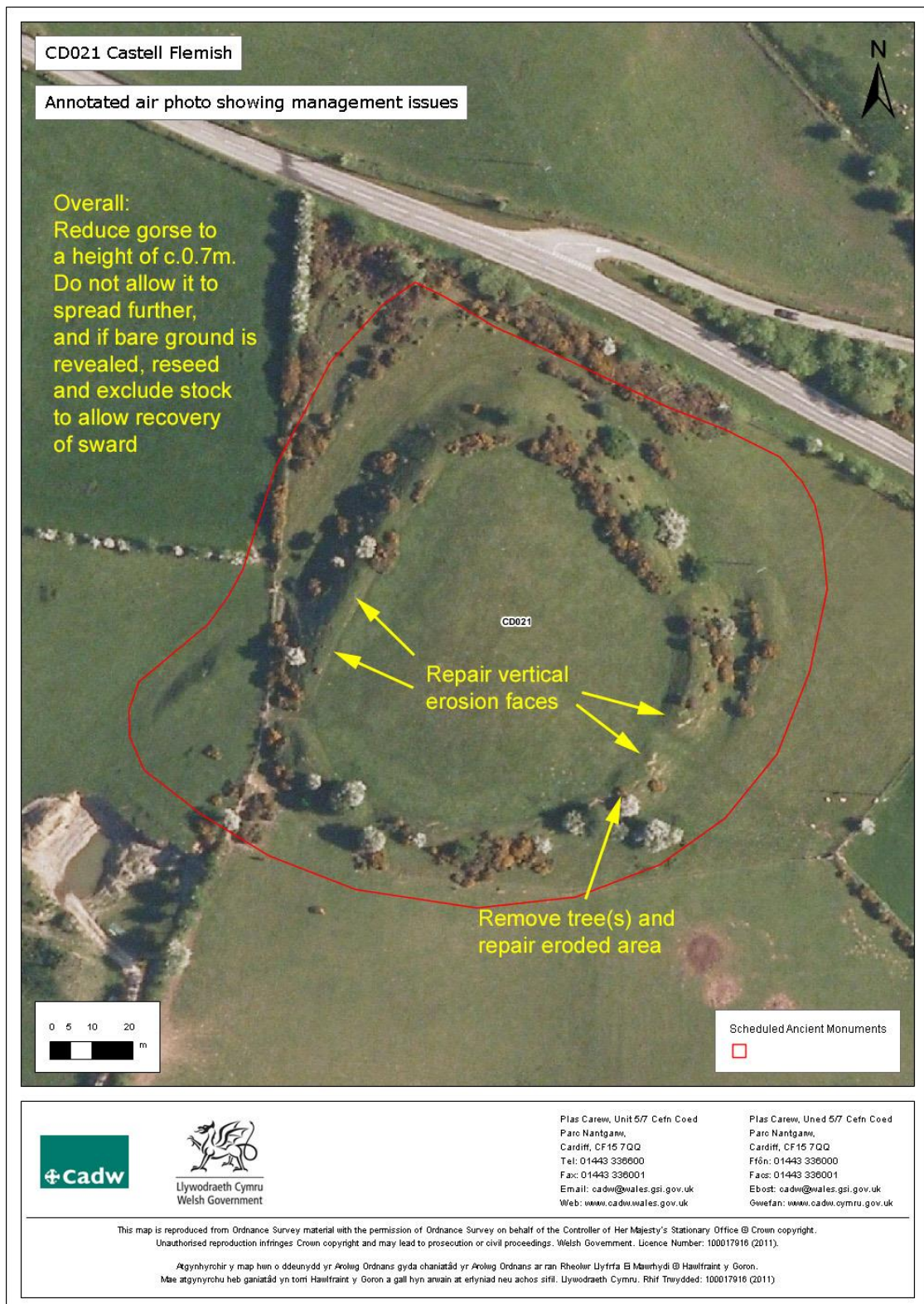
2. Current Condition

- The condition of the site as a whole has improved considerably over the last few years, particularly with the formation of good turf on the western slope which was formerly heavily eroded by stock. However, a few issues remain.

Management Issues

- At some points, vertical faces remain as a legacy of formerly larger areas of erosion. These lie to either side of the gap on the south-east of the site, and above the previously bare slope on the west (Figures 2-5 below).
- There is also quite a nasty area of erosion about 15m to the south of the gap on the south-east, in shade beneath trees. This is in part a legacy from a time when the fence line which now runs to the south came up onto the site here (Figure 6 below).
- Vertical erosion scars are unlikely to recover naturally (due to the combination of gravity, wind, rain and stock) and require in-filling and reseeded.
- While the flatter areas of the site are well grassed, and are clearly regularly mown, there is a fair amount of gorse on the slopes.
- Gorse detracts from the appearance and 'readability' of the site. In addition, erosion may occur at 'pinch-points' between gorse bushes.
- The cover gorse provides may encourage animal burrowing.
- Root growth may be affecting archaeological stratigraphy.
- At one point there were signs of burrowing, probably by badgers. The burrow did not appear to be currently active.
- For further detail, please see Section 3, annotated air photo showing management issues, and Section 4, photographs, below.

3. Annotated air photo showing management issues



4. Photographs



Figure 2. Erosion scars on N of SE gap, from S (Cadw 2015)



Figure 3. Erosion scars on S of SE gap, from NNE (Cadw 2015)



Figure 4. Erosion scars on summit of bank on W, from SSW (Cadw 2015)



Figure 5. Erosion scar on rear of Figure 4, from SSW (Cadw 2015)



Figure 6. Erosion under trees c.15m S of SE gap (Cadw 2015)



Figure 7. Formerly eroded area on W, from WSW (Cadw 2015)

5. Management Advice

The following works are recommended to improve the condition of the scheduled ancient monument. Cadw Field Monument Wardens are available to provide help and advice, and can be contacted via details shown on page 4.

Prioritised list of management works:

- Continue to maintain a short grass cover over the more level areas of the site with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm, through an appropriate grazing regime and / or annual vegetation cut to ground level.
- Reduce stocking levels if over grazing is causing damage to the grass sward.
- Control and if possible reduce the amount of gorse on the scheduled area, taking care to avoid encouraging fresh areas of stock erosion.
- Check the condition of the mature trees on site; any diseased or unstable ones that could be susceptible to wind throw, causing disturbance to the ground surface by the upheaval of root plates, should be felled and removed from the site.
- Remove the tree(s) casting shade above the eroded area south of the south-eastern gap, shown in Figure 6 above.
- Infill against the vertical erosion faces on the west and south-east of the site, including those beneath the tree(s), to prevent further loss of archaeological material.

The table below summarises the works and necessary consent procedures. Specific method statements are provided in the following pages.

Summary Table

5.1 Category 1 Works	5.2 Category 2 Works	Category 3 Works
<p>These works can be undertaken without scheduled monument consent if they are carried out according to the guidance specified in section 4.1 below.</p>	<p>These minor works require Section 17 scheduled monument consent.</p> <p>Consent will be granted automatically by completing and returning the form provided at the end of this management plan. The works may then be carried out according to the guidance specified in section 4.2 below.</p>	<p>These works require scheduled monument consent under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.</p> <p>The works may only be undertaken following written consent from Cadw.</p> <p>The works must then be carried out according to conditions specified in the consent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pasture management • Gorse control • Tree management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infilling against vertical erosion faces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Applicable

5.1. Category I works

These works can be undertaken without scheduled monument consent provided that they are carried out according to the guidance specified below:

Pasture management

- ***Continue to maintain a short grass cover over the more level areas of the site with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm, through an appropriate grazing regime and / or annual vegetation cut to ground level.***
- ***Reduce stocking levels if over grazing is causing damage to the grass sward.***
- The more level areas of the site may continue to be mown mechanically as at present.

Gorse control

- ***Control and if possible reduce the amount of gorse on the scheduled area, taking care to avoid encouraging fresh areas of stock erosion.***
- In the first instance, the gorse should be cut back to a height of around 0.7m.
- Smaller clumps, where there is already a good sward around sparse plants, should be cut at ground level with a view to removing them.
- This may be done using a flail cutter where feasible, as long as ground conditions are dry and there is no damage to the ground surface from the passage of vehicles. Otherwise, it should be done by hand.

- Cut material should be removed from the scheduled area; burning is not permitted within the scheduled area.
- Lowering the height of the gorse should help to discourage the formation of eroded areas due to sheep sheltering underneath it, and should help to improve the 'readability' of the site.
- The clumps of gorse should be gradually cut tighter around the edges to give the surrounding sward an opportunity to develop. Cutting should if possible not leave large areas of bare ground.
- A locally-sourced, native seed mix, shall be used for any re-seeding work on the monument.
- Stock may need to be excluded for periods to allow recovery. Temporary electric fencing may be used if desired.
- **If bare ground does require reseeding and recovery time, this could be co-ordinated with that for the erosion repairs in Section 5.2 below.**
- Appropriate herbicides may be used if available, provided they are acceptable to the applicant and within the remainder of the scheme.

Tree management

- ***Check the condition of the mature trees on site; any diseased or unstable ones that could be susceptible to wind throw, causing disturbance to the ground surface by the upheaval of root plates, should be felled and removed from the site.***
- ***Remove the tree(s) casting shade above the eroded area south of the south-eastern gap, shown in Figure 6 above.***

- The trees shall first be assessed for the likelihood of bat roosts being present and, if there is a roost, a Welsh Government licence shall be obtained in order to carry out the work. The occupier shall contact Natural Resources Wales to establish whether a felling licence is required prior to the commencement of any such work and, if so, shall obtain the necessary consent from Natural Resources Wales.
- Ensure that all woodland management work at the site is undertaken outside the bird breeding season of 1 March to 31 August.
- Trees should be felled above ground level, with stumps treated and left to rot in-situ.
- Work on trees should be carried out in dry weather so as to minimise ground disturbance; care should be taken to avoid damage from the passage of vehicles.
- All cut timber should be removed from the scheduled area, and no burning should take place within it.

5.2. Category 2 works

The works included within section 4.2 require **Section 17 Scheduled Monument Consent**. If you sign and return the form (at the end of this document) to the Cadw FMW, prior to undertaking the works, consent will be granted automatically. The works must then be carried out according to the guidance specified. In addition:

- The Cadw FMW must be notified prior to the commencement of work and upon completion of the works;
- A digital photographic record showing the site before and after completion of the works must be submitted to the Cadw FMW within 1 month of completion of the work.

Infilling against vertical erosion faces

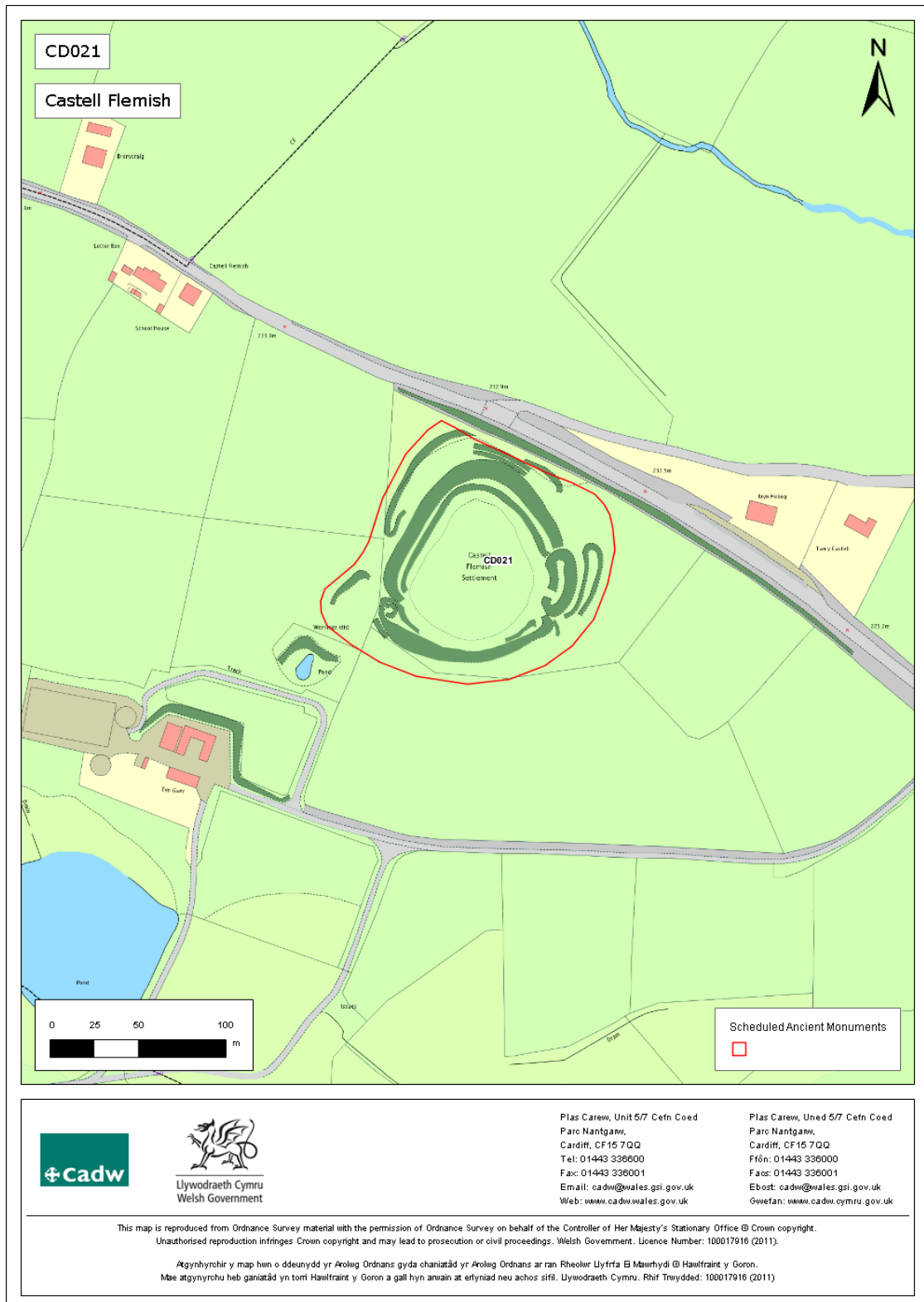
- *Infill against the vertical erosion faces on the west and south-east of the site, including those beneath the tree(s), to prevent further loss of archaeological material.*
- In-fill behind the vertical faces with stone topped with soil, and reseed with a local grass seed mix. Alternatively, in-fill with some soil and level up to the height of the vertical face with thick turf cut locally.
- It is not necessary to attempt to restore a hypothetical former profile of the site. The object of the work is to stabilise the vertical faces so that no further archaeological material is lost. The profile of the material against the face must however be sufficiently shallow that it does not slip away from the face as it settles.

- Stone, soil or turf used in the repairs should not be sourced from within the scheduled area, the ground surface of which should not be damaged during the repair work
- Broadleaf P4, also known as Swellgel, may be added to the top layer to help retain moisture and facilitate the development of the new sward.
- Wire mesh or proprietary geotextile may be pinned over the repairs if necessary to help them to become established.
- Protect the site, using temporary electric fencing, to allow the grass to recover (re-seed if necessary).
- Ensure that the grazing regime on the site does not encourage further areas of erosion to develop; particular care needs to be taken in both very wet and very dry conditions.
- Monitor the ground surface for erosion: protect with wire mesh and reseed with a local grass mix in spring or autumn if necessary to encourage natural recovery, or repair as required.

5.3. Long-term management recommendations / best practice

- Continue to maintain a short grass cover over the more level areas of the site with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm, as per the guidance specified above.
- Monitor stocking levels and reduce them if over grazing is causing damage to the grass sward.
- Continue to control and if possible reduce the amount of gorse on the scheduled area, according to the guidance specified above, taking care to avoid encouraging fresh areas of stock erosion.
- Continue to monitor the condition of the mature trees on site, reducing or removing any diseased or unstable ones that threaten to uproot, as per the guidance specified above.
- Monitor the site for further erosion problems and repair any new hollows promptly as per the guidance specified above.
- Control burrowing animals on site as far as is practicable.
- Note should also be taken of the general requirements given in Section 7 below.

6. Indicative Map of the Scheduled Area



7. Requirements

7.1. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979

Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) are monuments deemed to be of national importance and as such are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979. It is an offence under the legislation to cause damage or disturbance to a SAM.

Damage or disturbance would include – any unauthorised works that involve ground disturbance (including fencing), but also importing material into the scheduled area, metal detecting, rewetting, burning etc.

Any operations involving ground disturbance, the importation of material or rewetting require Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to have been approved by Cadw prior to the works being undertaken

7.2. Cross Compliance

Scheduled Ancient Monuments are afforded further protection under Cross - Compliance GAEC 7 Landscape Features.

GAEC 7 States:

- No work to a Scheduled Ancient Monument may be carried out without formal consent from Cadw e.g. ploughing, fencing, drainage, track upgrades etc
- Comply with all consent requirements in full
- Do not destroy or damage a Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Do not damage scheduled historic features through activities which cause or encourage soil erosion or ground disturbance on ancient monuments, e.g.:
 - overgrazing
 - growth of invasive scrub or vegetation

- trampling and poaching
- vehicle tracking, particularly on steep slopes or when ground conditions are wet
- supplementary feeding
- cultivation encroachment
- storage of equipment, materials and rubbish

7.3. Glastir - Whole Farm Code

The Glastir Whole Farm Code states:

You must not damage any historic feature identified on your agreement map

Definitions of damage to a historic feature include ANY of the following:

- Ground disturbance or excavation especially extending beneath topsoil
- Dumping or storage of material, including temporary storage
- Removal of any material, including stones, soil or subsoil
- Visible signs of active erosion (loss and disturbance of topsoil) caused by livestock and vehicles or other agricultural practice
- Planting trees
- Allowing scrub to develop
- Ploughing or reseeding
- Displacing individual stone features

8. Section 17 Scheduled Monument Consent

WELSH GOVERNMENT

AGREEMENT PROVIDING SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT FOR THE WORKS SET OUT BELOW CASTELL FLEMISH (CD021)

1. By signing this agreement with the Welsh Government - which is made under section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 - and returning a signed copy to Cadw, you will be granted scheduled monument consent for the **minor** works set out below by virtue of Class 8 of the Ancient Monuments (Class Consent) Order 1994.
2. **Minor Works Hereby Granted Consent:**
 - **Infilling in eroded areas according to the recommendations in section 5.2 of the management plan.**
 - **Further erosion repairs as required according to the recommendations in section 5.4 of the management plan.**
3. The agreement shall operate for a period of five years and the works should be undertaken as timetabled in the associated Glastir Advanced contract.
4. The extent of the area covered by this agreement is shown outlined in red on the map of the scheduled area showing management issues.
5. The works must be undertaken in a safe manner by competent persons and in accordance with the guidance set out in section 5.2. This agreement does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bylaw, order or regulation other than Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
6. This agreement will commence on the date it is signed on behalf of the Welsh Government.

Signed : Date :
[NAME OF APPLICANT]

Signed by authority on behalf of the Welsh Government:

Signed :*H B Burnham*..... Date : 20th October 2015
An Officer in the Welsh Government

RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

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[NAME OF APPLICANT]

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Signed :*H B Burnham*..... Date : 20th October 2015
An Officer in the Welsh Government

**PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE TO: CADW , Plas Carew, Unit 5/7 Cefn
Coed, Nantgarw, Cardiff, CF15 7QQ.**