

**Scheduled Ancient Monument Management Plan
August 2015**

PEN-Y-CASTELL GROUP (CD024)



Figure 1. Aerial view from ESE (©RCAHMMW 2012)

Customer Reference Number (CRN): A0027517

Farm name: Castle Hill



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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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Contained within this report:

1.	Site Description.....	5
2.	Current Condition	6
	Management Issues	6
3.	Annotated air photo highlighting management issues	7
4.	Photographs	8
5.	Management Advice	10
	Prioritised list of management works:	10
5.1.	Category I works	11
5.2.	Long-term management recommendations / best practice.....	12
6.	Indicative Map of the Scheduled Area.....	13
7.	Requirements.....	14
7.1.	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979	14
7.2.	Cross Compliance.....	14
7.3.	Glastir - Whole Farm Code.....	15

SAM name and reference number	Pen-y-Castell Group, CD024
Grid reference	SN 6299I 74543
Current Cadw funded schemes (MA /AM Grant)	None
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I. Site Description

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

- The monument comprises the remains of two earthwork enclosures. Item A is located on the summit of a rounded hill in a prominent position on the S side of the Afon Ystwyth. The enclosure is sub-oval in shape and measures 115m N-S by 55m transversely. A substantial bank defends the site. The date or precise nature of the enclosure is unknown. Some authorities consider it to be the remains of a small medieval motte and bailey, but an interpretation as a prehistoric defended enclosure is more likely. Item B is located 100m N of Item A on a gentle N-facing slope. The enclosure is trapezoidal in shape and probably dates to the Iron Age period (c. 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman invasion of Wales). It measures 60m E-W by 55m transversely. The bank measures 0.2m in height and 4m in width. A simple gap in the NW corner marks the location of the entrance.
- 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 importance of the monument is further enhanced by the group value of the defended enclosures. The designation has been revised in order to reflect more accurately the archaeological evidence on the ground.
- The scheduled areas comprise the remains described and areas around within which related evidence may be expected to survive. Area A is centred on Item A at NGR SN 62990 74550. It is irregular in shape on plan and measures 180m N-S by 130m transversely. Area B is centred on Item B at NGR SN 62300 74700. It is roughly square in shape on plan and measures 110m E-W by 110m transversely.

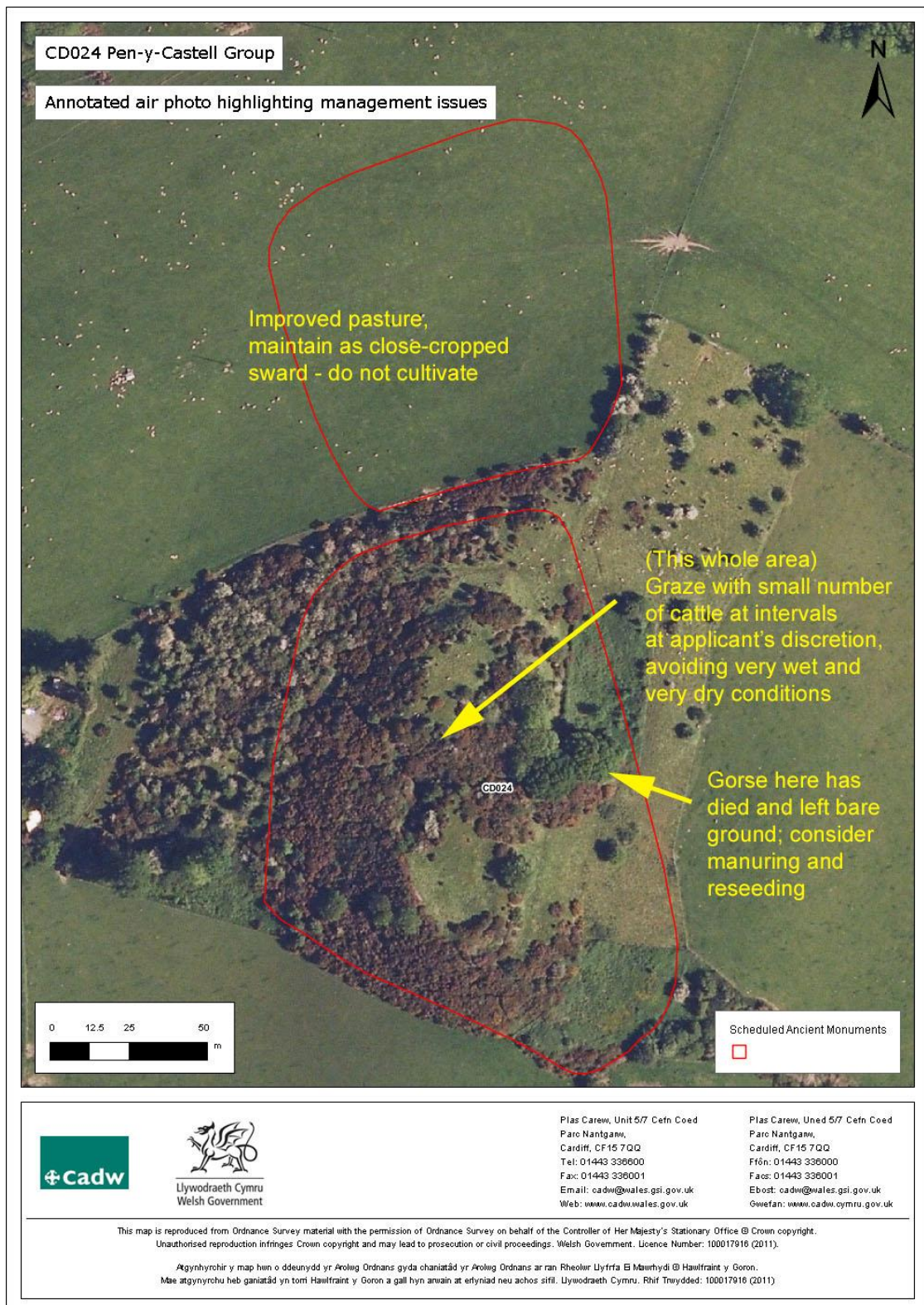
2. Current Condition

- The management of the two elements of the site are somewhat different. The northern enclosure (Item B) lies in improved pasture with no obvious management issues. Pen y Castell (Item A) remains in a generally stable condition, with the two summits and their defences largely grass-covered, although there is a fair amount of gorse and other vegetation on the slopes, particularly on the west.

Management Issues

- In recent years Pen y Castell has been managed by allowing limited occasional grazing by cattle.
- This appears to have been successful in maintaining the size of the gorse and other bushes around the two summits, and has not led to any issues with erosion.
- Gorse previously recorded on the outer end of the outwork running out from the body of the site midway along the eastern side appears to have died off fairly recently. The sward has not yet re-established here and there is some evidence of rabbit activity.

3. Annotated air photo highlighting management issues



4. Photographs



Figure 2. Bailey from SSE (Cadw 2015)



Figure 3. N summit of castle from S (Cadw 2015)



Figure 4. Outwork on E from SE (Cadw 2015)



Figure 5. NE defences from E (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:

Northern area (Item B):

- Maintain a short grass cover with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm through an appropriate grazing regime and / or annual vegetation cut to ground level.

Southern area (Item A):

- Continue with management as at present, using a limited number of cattle on the area for limited periods. Cattle may be admitted at any time at the applicant's discretion, though this should be avoided in very wet or very dry conditions in order to minimise the risk of erosion.
- Consider manuring and reseeding the bare ground on the earthwork on the east in order to encourage the development of a firm sward across the area.

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:

Northern area (Item B):

- ***Maintain a short grass cover with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm through an appropriate grazing regime and / or annual vegetation cut to ground level.***
- The area is already cropped short and no stones are in evidence, so that mechanical topping, if desired, should pose no problem.

Southern area (Item A):

- ***Continue with management as at present, using a limited number of cattle on the area for limited periods. Cattle may be admitted at any time at the applicant's discretion, though this should be avoided in very wet or very dry conditions in order to minimise the risk of erosion.***
- Sufficient grazing should take place to control the size and spread of gorse around the upper areas of the site.
- Erosion of the ground surface as a result of grazing should be avoided.
- ***Consider manuring and reseeding the bare ground on the earthwork on the east in order to encourage the development of a firm sward across the area.***

5.2. Long-term management recommendations / best practice

Northern area (Item B):

- Continue to maintain a short grass cover with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm through an appropriate grazing regime and / or annual vegetation cut to ground level.

Southern area (Item A):

- Continue with management as outlined above using a limited number of cattle on the area for limited periods.
- 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 reseeded
- Displacing individual stone features