

**Scheduled Monument Management Plan  
November 2016**

**Castell Hywel (CD084)**



Figure 1. General view from NNE (Cadw 2016)

**Customer Reference Number (CRN): A0025117**

**Farm name: Gwardafolog**



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

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<b>SM name and reference number</b>	Castell Hywel, CD084
<b>Grid reference</b>	SN 44044 47650
<b>Current Cadw funded schemes (MA /AM Grant)</b>	None
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## **I. Site Description**

The following provides a general description of the Scheduled Monument.

- The monument comprises the remains of a motte and ditch, dating to the medieval period (c. 1066 -1540 AD). A motte is a large conical or pyramidal mound of soil and/or stone, usually surrounded by either a wet or dry ditch, and surmounted by a tower constructed of timber or stone. The mound at Castell Hywel stands c.8m above the road which adjoins it on the west. It is c.12m across the top and has a ditch on the east and south which tapers out on the north, where a steep slope runs down to a stream, and the west, where the road may have cut through it. There has been some disturbance to the top of the motte, with an old trench c.8m long and up to c.2m deep running in from the east side. There was possibly once an enclosure on its east side.
- The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practices. The monument is well-preserved and an important relic of the medieval landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both structural evidence and intact associated deposits.
- The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

## **2. Current Condition**

- The site remains overall very much as it has been for the last 30 years. The scheduled area is lightly wooded, mainly with sycamores which are now becoming somewhat decrepit. A few clumps of gorse stand in the more open area on the south slope of the motte. The area is grazed periodically by both sheep and cattle.

## **Management Issues**

- The trees on site are generally becoming somewhat aged. Some timber was beginning to fall when the site was last visited in 2007 and this trend has continued, with quite a few fallen branches and trees around the site.
- Only one tree, towards the south-west of the motte, has actually uprooted, bringing with it a small amount of archaeological material. This probably took place some years ago, as the scar is now quite well grassed.
- Cut timber has been piled along the eastern boundary of the scheduled area to rot. This is not a problem at present, and the piles have wildlife value. Such piles should not, however, be allowed to encroach much further towards the obvious features.
- There is bare ground in places, particularly around the north of the site, due to stock wear. This has been the case for many years and in view of the shaded nature of the ground here it is hard to suggest a solution apart from controlling the density and timing of grazing.
- The site should not be permanently fenced out; the vegetation control afforded by grazing is generally desirable. In the longer term this is likely to leave the area more open as the current trees die.
- Gorse on site should continue to be controlled or eliminated altogether and certainly not allowed to spread.



### 3. Photographs



Figure 2. Timber along E boundary of scheduled area (Cadw 2016)



Figure 3. Fallen tree on SE of ditch, from ENE (Cadw 2016)





Figure 4. Fallen timber on E of ditch, from SSE (Cadw 2016)



Figure 5. Uprooted tree on SW of motte, from S (Cadw 2016)





Figure 6. Area to N of motte, from ESE (Cadw 2016)



Figure 7. Area to NE of motte, from W (Cadw 2016)

#### **4. Management Advice**

The following works are recommended to improve the condition of the Scheduled 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:**

- Cut up and remove fallen trees and branches within the scheduled area.
- Monitor the condition of the trees and trim or fell any that appear unsound and likely to fall or uproot.
- Control or eliminate gorse within the scheduled area.
- Control grazing as far as possible to avoid the breakdown of the ground surface of the monument.

#### **4.1. Category I works**

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

##### **Tree and timber management**

- ***Cut up and remove fallen trees and branches within the scheduled area.***
- ***Monitor the condition of the trees and trim or fell any that appear unsound and likely to fall or uproot.***
- 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.
- Cut timber may if necessary be log-piled along the eastern edge of the scheduled area, provided the material is well clear of the visible features. No burning should take place within the scheduled area.
- No vehicular tracking should take place within the scheduled area.



## **Control of gorse**

- ***Control or eliminate gorse within the scheduled area.***
- Stems should be cut at ground level, leaving the roots to decay in-situ.
- Stones within the scheduled area should not be disturbed.
- Brash should be removed from the scheduled area; burning is not permitted within the scheduled area.
- Appropriate herbicides may be used on both stumps and/or top growth if available, provided they are acceptable to the applicant and within the remainder of the scheme.
- A locally-sourced, native seed mix, should be used for any re-seeding work on the monument.

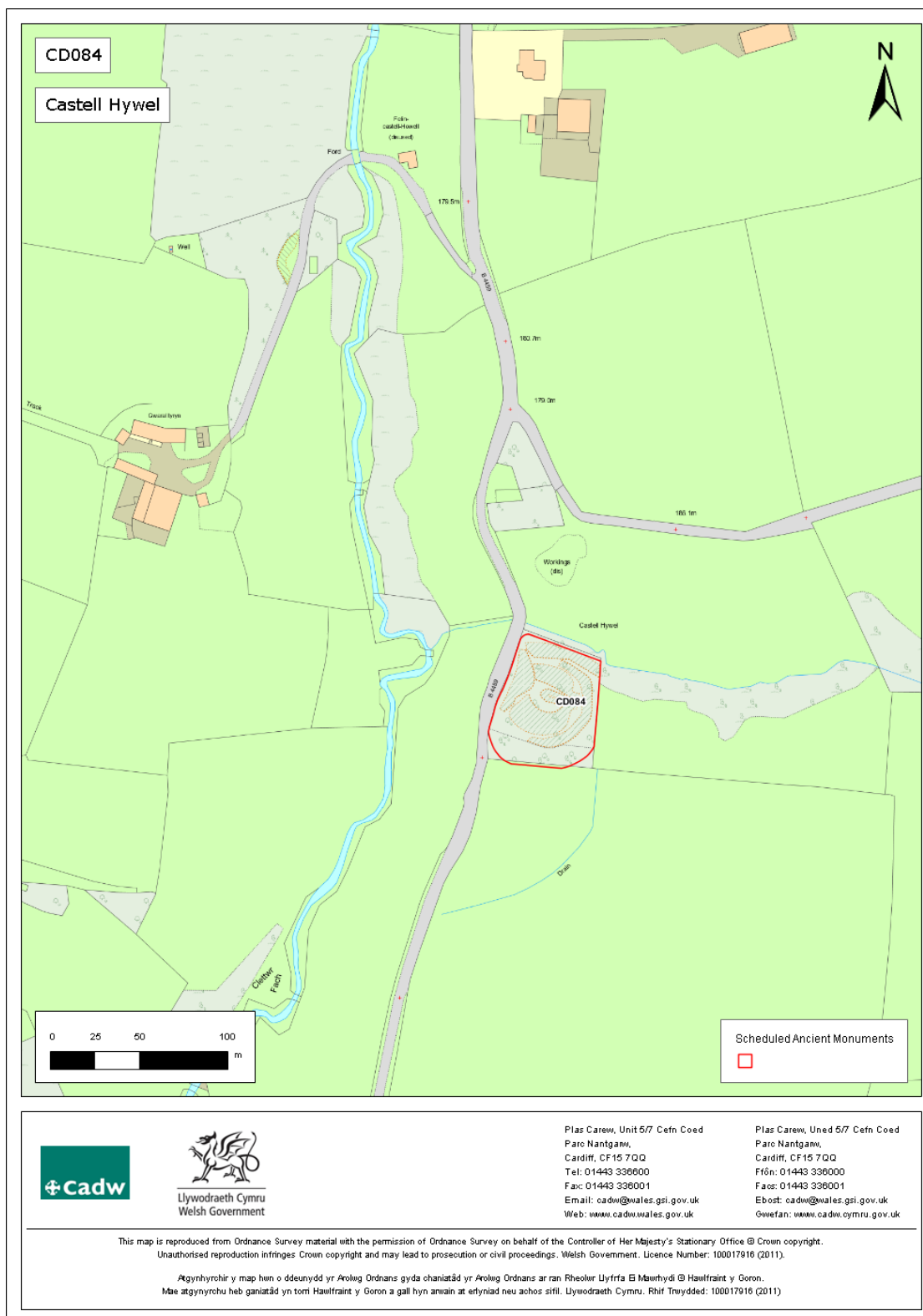
## **Control of grazing**

- ***Control grazing as far as possible to avoid the breakdown of the ground surface of the monument.***
- Particular care needs to be taken during both very dry and very wet conditions.

#### **4.2. Long-term management recommendations / best practice**

- Continue to monitor the condition of the trees and to tidy up any fallen branches as per the works recommended and guidance specified above.
- Continue to control gorse as per the works recommended and guidance specified above.
- Continue to control grazing as per the guidance specified above.
- Note should also be taken of the general requirements given in Section 6 below.

## 5. Indicative Map of the Scheduled Area





## **6. Requirements**

### **6.1. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979**

Scheduled Monuments 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 Scheduled Monument

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

### **6.2. Cross Compliance**

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

GAEC 7 States:

- No work to a Scheduled 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 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

### **6.3. Glastir - Whole Farm Code**

The Glastir Whole Farm Code states:

Rules Applicable to All Land (including habitat land): Do not burn vegetation on rocky areas or archaeological sites.

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