

**Scheduled Ancient Monument Management Plan  
October 2015**

**BLAEN GLASFFRWD CAIRN CEMETERY (CD138)**

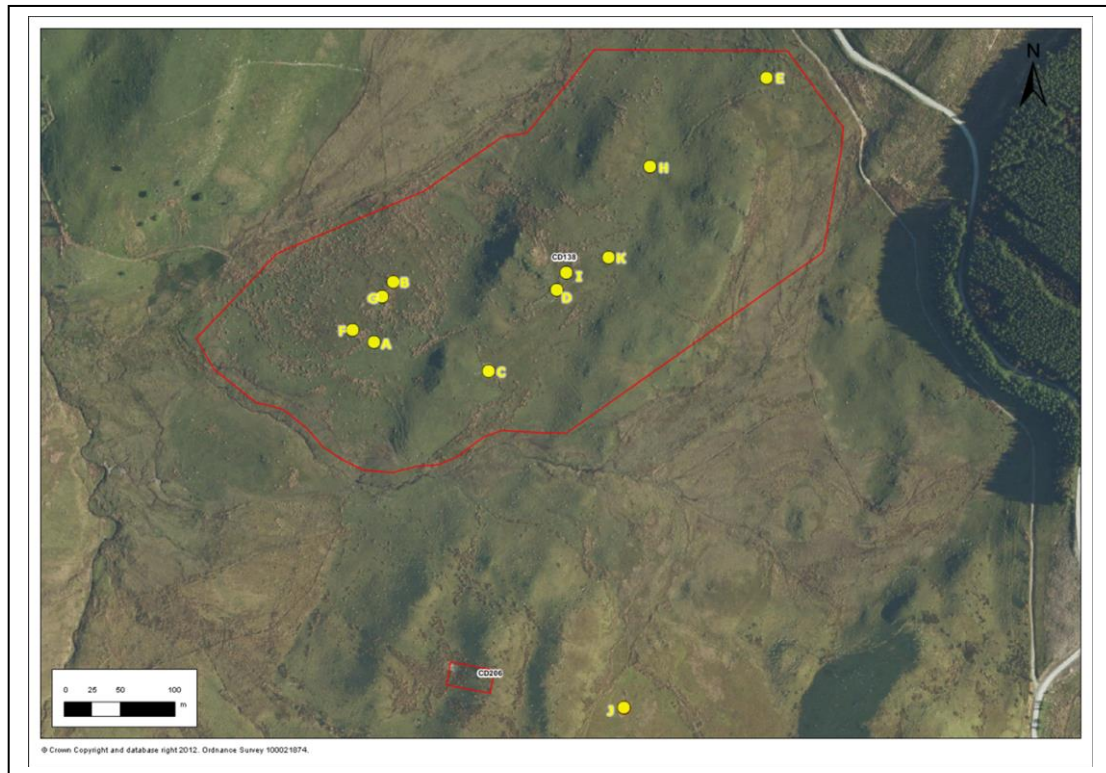


Figure 1. Aerial photograph showing scheduled area and annotated with main elements of site (Crown Copyright 2012)

**Customer Reference Number (CRN): A0026759**

**Farm name: Tynddraenen**



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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<b>SAM name and reference number</b>	Blaen Glasffrwd Cairn Cemetery, CD138
<b>Grid reference</b>	SN 77125 63166
<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 Ancient Monument.

- The monument comprises the remains of a Bronze Age cairn cemetery, probably dating to the second millennium BC. It is located in enclosed upland pasture within the sheltered Nant Glasffrwd basin. The cemetery comprises a large and impressive central cairn with at least five smaller examples and the remains of a possible stone row.
- The central kerb cairn is a complex and important monument, displaying several phases of construction and one of the largest cists in Wales. The cairn measures 10.5m in diameter and 0.7m in height. Several long kerbstones are visible around its perimeter and a massive central cist is visible, its huge capstone pushed aside and resting on the NE side of the cist (which measures 1.4m from NW to SE by 0.8m transversely and at least 0.8m in depth). The cairn appears to be built upon an earlier structure, largely visible as a grass grown stony bank around the NE arc. This earlier phase may represent a ring cairn, the structure measuring 13.5m in diameter and 0.3m in height. Several alcoves are visible around the perimeter of the later cairn - and a sub-rectangular platform can be traced, extending to the SE and adjacent to the most prominent alcove. A shallow sub-rectangular hollow is visible within the centre of this hollow. The long thin slab lying immediately to the W may once have stood upright within this setting.
- At least five further cairns form part of the cemetery; the largest measures 6m in diameter and up to 0.4m in height (it also boasts a kerb and a fine central cist) and the smallest measures 2.6m in diameter and 0.2m in height. A possible stone row also forms part of the complex; two large quartzitic boulders, one standing (up to 0.7m in height) and one prone (measuring 1.1m in length) and aligned from ESE to WNW with the central cairn. It is possible that traces of further burial monuments - such as denuded cairns and buried cists - will survive within the area of the cemetery.

- The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The monument is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both intact burial or ritual deposits and environmental and structural evidence.
- The scheduled areas comprise the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive. Area 'A' is irregular on plan and measures up to 600m from NE to SW to by 250m transversely. Area 'B' is circular in shape on plan and measures 10m in diameter.

**Additional information:**

A further scheduled site, probably much later in date, CD206 Blaen Glasffrwd longhouse, lies nearby in the same area of upland pasture. Item G of CD138 is a longhouse of similar type; there are also traces of possible trackways and field boundaries within the scheduled area of CD138 which may relate to later periods of exploitation.

## **2. Current Condition**

- The scheduled area is generally in good condition in an area of rough upland pasture.

### **Management Issues**

- There is a little rush growth around some of the features, particularly the cist B (SN 76987 63162) and the stones F (SN 76950 63119).
- This is not particularly serious, but especially in the case of cist B, may lay the remains open to inadvertent damage since they cannot easily be seen.

## **3. 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:**

#### ***Particularly in the areas of Items B and F (see Figure 1 and Section 2 above):***

- 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.
- Rushes should be kept under reasonable control generally within the scheduled area.

Specific method statements are provided below.

### **3.1. Category I works**

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

#### **Rush control**

***Particularly in the areas of Items B and F (see Figure 1 and Section 2 above):***

- ***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.***
- ***Rushes should be kept under reasonable control generally within the scheduled area.***
- Cutting is to be undertaken by hand (using a strimmer with string attachment head, not a brush-cutter).
- Stones within the scheduled area should not be disturbed.
- Stems to be cut at ground level, leaving the roots to decay in-situ.

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

***Particularly in the areas of Items B and F (see Figure 1 and Section 2 above):***

- Continue to maintain a short grass cover with other vegetation not exceeding a maximum height of 30cm as per the works recommended and guidance specified above.
- Rushes should be kept under reasonable control generally within the scheduled area.
- Note should also be taken of the general requirements given in Section 6 below.

#### 4. Photographs

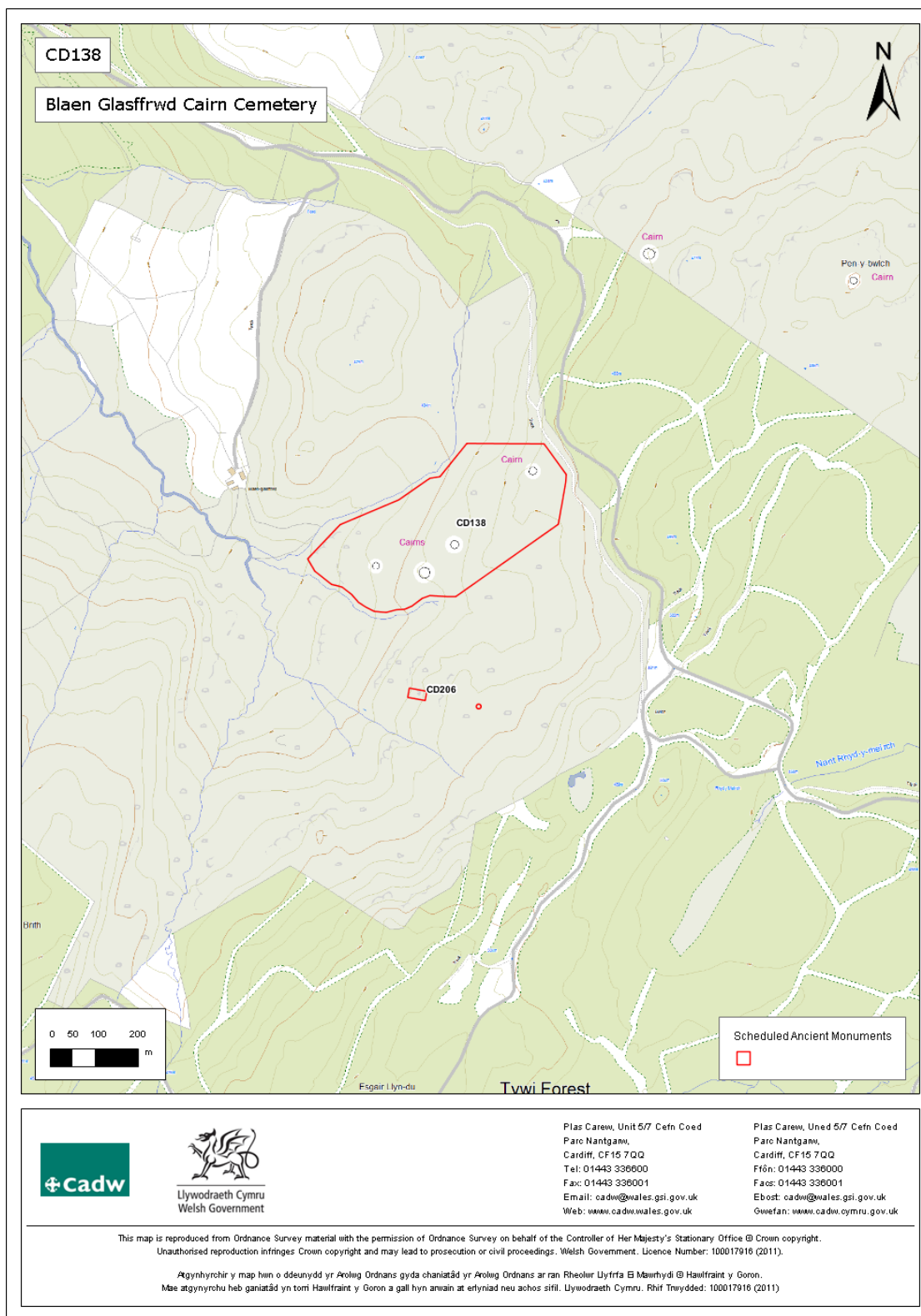


Figure 2. Cist B, seen from E (Cadw 2007)



Figure 3. Stones F, seen from NNW (Cadw 2007)

## 5. Indicative Map of the Scheduled Area



## **6. Requirements**

### **6.1. 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

### **6.2. 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

### **6.3. 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